CHINA WEEKLY

REVIEW

密勒氏評論報

A Weekly Newspaper Established in 1917

One year of the

"AMERICAN CENTURY"

CHINESE JEWS OF KAIFENG

JOSEPH PREUSS

CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL PLAN OUTLINED FOR 1950

THE ATLANTIC PACT . . . editorial

BOMBING OF SHANGHAI . . . report

FEBRUARY 4, 1950

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LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of The China Weekly Review.

THE BLUE DANUBE

To The Editor:

It is with great regret that one reads the notice about the liquidation of the Austrian Legation in China, coming at a time when four of Austria's six neighbors have decided to recognize the People's Government, and when two of the four powers still occupying Austria have decided to do likewise.

Naturally, the People's Government of China will succeed without having been recognized by Austria, but the "statesmen" of Vienna, bearing in mind Austria's fate under foreign and native fascist domination, should be expected to show more understanding for a nation now attaining national independence and the right to choose her own path in international affairs.

Austrians enjoying China's hospitality and sympathizing with its efforts for human progress and economic reconstruction, feel that non-recognition by a government will not be able to deter or undermine international understanding and friendship between the peoples.

However, one is led to believe that Austria's government works under the assumption that Vienna is not on the blue Danube, but on the shores of the Atlantic.

CIVIS VINDOBONENSIS

Shanghai
January 24, 1950

UNFORGETTABLE YEAR

To The Editor:

Since the year has just drawn to a close it will perhaps not be devoid of interest to keep a sketchy record of some of the chief events which have occurred.

1949 will go down as one of the most eventful years in the annals of Shanghai. During the short period of 12 months the city has dramatically undergone a tremendous change —a change which has not only set its millions of inhabitants free from the yoke and oppression of a thoroughly corrupt and effete regime, but has also given them a new life politically, economically, socially and culturally.

In the latter half of 1948 Shanghai's condition was bad enough. Price restrictions and the so-called economic reform, following the introduction of the Gold Yuan, had for a period of weeks caused a scarcity of all kinds of commodities and brought extreme hardship to most people. The Gold Yuan soon followed the worthless old currency in rapid inflation. Graft pervaded all governmental organizations. Public utilities were badly managed. Many of the police and soldiers took bribes and engaged in blackmail, pilfering, and robbery. Workers and students were frequently on strike. Newspapers and magazines were muzzled and suppressed for criticizing the authorities. There was no protection for person and property. The populace seethed with discontent and indignation.

From January to April 1949 the situation worsened. The tottering government failed in its attempt to check the alarming inflation by the sale of gold, and transactions in silver dollars accelerated the uselessness of the paper money. Such was the background against which the metropolis was destined to emerge from darkness into light.

The successful crossing of the Yangtze River by the People's Liberation Army on April 21 and the immediate liberation of Nanking hastened the evacuation of public offices, government-owned enterprises and the flight of high ranking officials and others to Taiwan, Hongkong or some foreign country. Many of the rich who fled, as well as a number of foreign residents had, no doubt, been influenced by vicious rumors and false predictions that they would be victimized by the Communists.

The fall of Hangchow on May 3 stirred the garrison. Preparations for the defense of the city went into full swing. Exhorbitant taxes were levied and able-bodied persons, irrespective of sex and age, were drafted to construct thousands of concrete pill-boxes and other barricades. All, however, to no avail. The battle on the outskirts of the city started on May 12 and the whole of Shanghai was liberated by May 27.

Jubilant over the liberation and favorably impressed by the excellent discipline and behavior of the Communists troops, people in every walk of life whole-heartedly supported the new government. Thanks to the meritorious efforts of the workers not only did the supply of electricity, water and gas not stop for a moment, but the railways, cotton-mills, workshops and other industrial plants were preserved intact. The circulation of Jen Min Piao in lieu of the worthless Gold Yuan brought greater stability to the market. Improvement and progress found expression in productive activities and reconstruction work.

In July thousands of fully armed and well-equipped People's Liberation Army combatants, together with large numbers of workers, students and others, paraded through the main streets to celebrate the victory. In the same month the concern of the authorities for public welfare was fully shown by their zealous efforts in dealing with the floods caused by a typhoon which did huge damage to the city. In October a mammoth demonstration was held to celebrate the formation in Peking of the Central People's Government. About 1,000,000 people of all classes from every part of the city participated in this unprecedented occasion marching through the thoroughfares for some 30 hours in long processions, carrying lanterns, banners and dancing to music.

Since liberation a great deal has been done toward the reconstruction of the metropolis, though much still remains to be accomplished. But as General Ch'en Yi, Mayor of Shanghai, has pointed out: Under the leadership of the Communist Party and relying on the labor and wisdom of the Chinese people, we can conquer all difficulties and achieve victory.

HSIEH CHING-AN

Shanghai
January 15, 1950

WRITERS' DUTY

To The Editor:

Stalin has said that writers are the engineers of human souls and that a writer must serve the people. No doubt a writer's duty to society is a heavy one. But how can a writer serve the people?

By the people I mean chiefly the workers, peasants and soldiers, for they are the ones who have done their best in the revolutionary war and are still fighting the enemy for the realization of our New Democracy. If a writer takes seriously his responsibility of serving the people, he must, first of all, be re-educated. As most of the writers have come from families belonging to the petty bourgeoisie, they are more or less influenced by the ideology of the bourgeoisie. Such people can never express correct views or opinions unless they change their standpoint to that of the preletariat. If they fail to do so, their work will probably do great harm to the people. So to establish a firm foundation is of first and paramount importance.

A writer should have abundant experience of life. It is essential to have this if he wants to be a good writer. Without such experience he can hardly produce worthwhile work. The creative power of a writer does not come merely

(Continued on page 163)

THE CHINA WEEKLY REVIEW
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Index February 4, 1950

Editorial
The Atlantic Pact 148

Special Articles
Chinese-Jews Of Kaifeng 150
The American Century? 154
1950 Agricultural Plan 158
New Taxation Program 163

Departments
Letters From The People ... 147
25 Years Ago 149
News Of The Week 159
Chinese Press Opinion 160
Articles Of Interest 161
Week's Business 162
New Books Of Interest 164
English Lesson .....Back Cover

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Vol. 116 Shanghai, Saturday, February 4, 1950 No. 10

THE ATLANTIC PACT

THE approval in Washington last week of the secret "Atlantic Pact Master Defense Plan" by President Truman put the finishing touches on the North Atlantic military alliance and, incidentally, revealed to the world some of the basic motives and plans of the Truman Administration.

Trumpeted as a "defense" pact against threatened Russian aggression, the Atlantic Pact has been sold to the American people by the expedient of whipping up an artificial fear of attack. So successful has this campaign been that a sizeable section of the American public has viewed with little or no alarm a complete and dangerous reversal of America's traditional foreign policy.

However, with the signing of the arms aid agreements, which put teeth in the Atlantic Pact, the extent to which Truman has compromised traditional American policies can now be clearly seen.

The most startling revelation is that the American arms which will be shipped to Britain, France and other signatory powers, will be available for use in the Pacific and other colonies of those countries. These arms, produced with American labor and American money, will be used by the British and French for more efficient killing of Malayans, Vietnamese or any other subject peoples who may in the future launch a struggle for national independence.

The second annex of the treaty signed with Britain, according to press reports from Washington, "makes it clear that the United States will not refuse . . . to allow materials to be used outside the North Atlantic Treaty area." The exact implication of this annex was clarified beyond doubt by a press agency dispatch from London on January 27 which read in part:

"From Britain's point of view the key difficulty which held up the agreement—the right to transfer material received under the mutual aid program outside the Atlantic area—has been solved by the three provisions in articles two and three of the agreement. It has been agreed that Britain can transfer to other areas of the world defended by British troops any raw materials or spare parts without informing the United States, provided the military strength of the North Atlantic area is not impaired.

"Britain may also transfer specific items of military equipment—bombers, for example—also provided the total North Atlantic strength is not weakened. American agreement must, in this case, be first obtained, but it has been indicated this will be automatic."

An official spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry was much more candid. A press dispatch from Paris on January 27 reported: "American arms sent to France could not be used in Indo-China unless there was a special agreement, the spokesman added, but it was obvious they would make more French arms available for the Far East."

Thus we can see the double game which Truman is attempting to play. One day he says that the United States continues to oppose colonialism. He says that he hopes the colonial peoples of Asia will obtain their freedom and that the United States is prepared to help them accomplish this.

However, on the next day Truman signs a paper which will give American-made guns to the European colonialists. Just to make sure that these guns can be put to "good" use, he adds an annex to the paper which says in effect that he will grant automatic approval if the British, French or other colonial powers decide that these weapons can better be used against the indigenous peoples of Asia, Africa or of some other "backward" area than against Russians or communists in Europe.

* * *

THERE are, of course, other significant facts which can be readily seen by reading the pertinent articles and annexes of the treaties.

For instance, the overall purpose of the agreement is to arrange formally and decide upon the supplying of the US arms of various descriptions to America's new satellites—the signers of the agreements. What, aside from easing the burden upon the recipient countries of securing arms, will be the outcome of this scheme? First and foremost it will allow Truman to dispose of a political hot potato—the ever-growing stockpile of obsolete and semi-obsolete arms which his administration has spent billions of taxpayers' dollars to build.

Although a press dispatch from Paris on January 27 states that "American arms and equipment will be supplied from current mobilization stocks of the American Army, Navy and Air Force, and will enable modernization of French armored divisions," there are a number of indications as to just how "modern" this equipment may be.

On the same date as the above story, another press dispatch from London revealed that the first deliveries of the 70 American B-29 Superfortresses for the Royal Air Force due under the arms agreement, were expected in England in about two months.

Just how modern the B-29 is can be seen from the fact that American military writers are already referring to the B-36, recently hailed

as the answer to the problem of delivering the atomic bomb safely and quickly to any point in the world, as semi-obsolete. The B-36 is just about five years newer than the B-29. If the B-36, the latest model, is now said to be on the way to becoming obsolete, what is the status of the B-29, a plane with a much smaller bomb carrying capacity, a lower ceiling, a shorter range and a slower speed?

Roughly the same situation exists in regard to the tanks and other motorized equipment which the French government is hopefully expecting from the United States. All of this equipment is coming out of "current mobilization stocks" of the American armed forces. Some may be relatively new material, but the majority is certain to be from the huge stockpiles left over from the last war.

* * *

OF importance, too, is the effect which this "dumping" of American surplus military equipment will have on the economies of the recipient nations.

Previously, these countries spent as much on their armies, navies and airforces as they felt necessary or, generally, as much as their respective economies would allow. Now, however, the United States has come along and—in the name of a holy crusade against communism and Russia—has told them that they must integrate and **expand** their military establishments. Even though the tanks, airplanes, guns and so forth are received practically free of charge, the cost of training and feeding and paying men to man them will be a heavy burden upon the receiving countries.

A concrete example of this is Holland, where a government spokesman stated at the time of the signing of the Atlantic Pact some months ago that the increased military expenditure required of his government would have an "incalculatable" inflationary effect upon the country's economy.

However, there is still another important aspect to be considered. Already France, for example, has virtually abandoned her aircraft industry. Never a strong competitor in world markets, France's aircraft industry has long depended largely upon orders from the government for military planes, plus some orders from Air France or other national users of civil aircraft. Now, however, with the French forces being equipped with American military planes, and with Air France using mainly American skyliners, the French airplane industry has almost come to a standstill.

The implications of such a state of affairs cannot be overlooked. Once France becomes totally dependent upon foreign suppliers for such a vital item, she becomes crippled in her relations with the suppliers, since she has handed such foreign providers an enormous stick to hold over her own head. In the event of war, for instance, history has shown that even the wealthy United States finds it difficult to supply her own needs, not to mention those of her friends. Naturally, America's own requirements would be met first, and France would get what was left, if anything were left. Or suppose that at the time of such an outbreak of war, France were inclined to remain neutral. How many planes would a combatant US be inclined to supply to a neutral France?

* * *

THE Atlantic Pact has been hailed as a defense pact which will make America stronger and eliminate the danger of defeat in the event of war with Russia. However, the results of this pact are likely to be rather different from what Truman and his aides foresee. The military might of Britain, France, Holland, Belgium, Italy and other beneficiaries under the terms of the Pact may be strengthened for the moment. However, the Pact, by its very nature sows the seeds of economic difficulties in the internal structures of the recipient countries. The end result, instead of increased strength, is almost certain to be economic collapse, which may well turn a number of today's friends into tomorrow's enemies.

25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Concession and Settlement

January 31, 1925

At practically all of the chief ports of China there are sections of land known as "concessions" or "settlements," where the foreigners may own land for residential or business purposes. The Encyclopaedia Sinica defines term "concession" to mean a "piece of ground leased by the Chinese to a foreign government and sub-let to western merchants," while a "settlement" is an area "wherein western merchants may lease land directly from the Chinese owners—which is generally done by perpetual lease. In either case it is understood that the police control shall be in the hands of the foreign power: a right which the power delegates to a Municipal Council." There is of course a great deal more to these terms than the foregoing definition indicates, but is sufficient to show that it is a section of land wherein foreigners reside and conduct their businesses under rights guaranteed by some treaty, and the policing of the areas is under the control of the foreign powers administering the territory.

Missionaries in Hunan

Missionaries in Changsha, Hunan, are watching with keen interest the current movement of the anti-Christian radicals. In the December missionary monthly meeting, R. K. Veryard read a paper on the Rise of Nationalism in China in which he emphasized the need of making known to the Chinese that the missionaries had nothing to do with the alleged imperialism of their respective countries.

10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Shanghai Workers

February 3, 1940

During recent weeks there has been a marked revival of labor trouble in Shanghai. Large-scale industrial plants, department stores and smaller enterprises have been involved one after the other. Both Chinese and foreign establishments have been affected by strikes, which, however, have usually been of short duration and ended with the workers winning slight concessions.

. . . With living costs twice as high as the pre-hostilities level, with the purchasing power of the Chinese dollar cut more than one-half, and with actual earnings raised by less than 20 percent, real wages paid to the bulk of local industrial workers have dropped to less than 60 percent of the 1936 level, the annual report of the Industrial Section of the Shanghai Municipal Council shows.

The Chinese Jews of Kaifeng

A Jewish community in China, thought to have come via Central Asia, maintained its existence for centuries before being absorbed by the Chinese.

IN June of 1605, nearly three and a half centuries ago, a Chinese by the name of Ai Tien, 60 years old, from Kaifeng, capital of Honan province in China, called upon Father Matteo Ricci at the Jesuit headquarters in Peking. He wanted, so he said, to pay his respects to the Westerners who, without being Mohammedans, worshipped the Only One God just as he and his co-religionists in Kaifeng did. He thought he was of the same religion as Ricci, who was impressed by the differences in the facial characteristics of his visitor as compared with ordinary Chinese.

When Ai Tien saw that Ricci bowed to the statue of the Virgin Mary with the Infant Jesus and St. John the Baptist in the Chapel, he did likewise, though he stated that he was not accustomed to worship images and merely wanted to show respect to the memory of the holy men of his own religion. Noticing four pictures of the Evangelists, he inquired whether they were of the twelve. Father Ricci answered in the affirmative, assuming that he was referring to the twelve Apostles.

Upon their return to the guest hall, Ricci, to his amazement, found his visitor to be a Chinese Jew who had been talking entirely in terms of the Old Testament. He had mistaken the statues for Rebecca and her two sons, Jacob and Esau, and, when he inquired about the twelve, he had meant the twelve sons of Jacob. When he was shown Hebrew books, it was found that he could recognize the Hebrew characters, although he was unable to read them. He explained that he had devoted himself exclusively to the study of Chinese books, but that other members of his community in Kaifeng were able to read Hebrew. He reported that in his city there were 12 clans observing Jewish religious practices and that they had a synagogue where they kept scrolls of the Law. Scattered over China there were others of the same faith, but they were gradually being lost.

It was not until a few years later that Ricci was able to send some Chinese messengers to Kaifeng to investigate the facts. Ai Tien's story was corroborated, and the report of the delegates on the communal and religious life, the synagogue and the Hebrew writings of the Chinese Jews in Kaifeng was sent to the Vatican and published at a later date.

This was the first account to the Western world of the remarkable fact that an isolated Jewish community had been in existence in the heart of China for some centuries without having any communication with Jews in other countries.

* * *

THE opinion held by the majority of scholars interested in the subject of the Chinese Jews is that the Jews entered China over the land route via Central Asia. The influx of Jews into Central Asia dates back to Biblical times long before the Christian era. The Old Testament mentions that King Solomon (around 1000 BC) sent his commercial fleet several times to the estuary of the Indus and developed a caravan route to India. There is evidence that Jewish colonies existed in Persia as early as the eighth century BC.

When, in the beginning of the first century BC, a direct overland trade, especially in silk, between China and the Roman Empire developed, Persian Jews probably were among the early traders who went to China. The silk trade, "the most far-reaching large-scale commerce of antiquity" according to a modern writer on this subject, assumed such proportions that it became one of the major factors in the economic decline of the Roman world. Silk constituted at least 90 percent of China's exports to Rome and through this merchandise the Chinese became known to the Romans by the name of Seres (silk people). Even after the silk worm was brought to Europe in the sixth century AD and Europe began producing its own silk, the silk trade from China to the Mediterranean continued, as European silk production even up to present times has never been able to meet Europe's heavy demands. In exchange for her Chinese trade Rome sent China cotton which was not cultivated in China until the 14th century. Other products from Rome included glass, wool, pearls, corals, amber, drugs and perfumes.

Overland Route

The silk caravan route from China to the Mediterranean, which started in the northwest of China, went via Loyang, Sian (then called Changan) and Lanchow, and through the province of Sinkiang north and south of the Taklamakan desert to Kashgar. From Kashgar there were again alternative roads, the Samarkand and Balkh routes, converging in Merv. Then the route extended across modern Iran to Seleucia-Ctesiphon (just below modern Baghdad), and from there through Mesopotamia and Syria, finally arriving in Antioch. There was, besides, a short cut from Seleucia across the Syrian desert to Damascus and Gaza on the Mediterranean. (See map)

There is no evidence of Chinese having been silk traders outside their own country. This trading was done by intermediaries, mostly Syrians, Parthians and particularly Persians. For some centuries the supply of silk for Rome was an almost absolute monopoly of Persia. Among the Persian traders there must have been numerous Jews who probably became an important medium in the trade relations between China and the Roman Orient. That foreign traders came to China is clear from old records and from clay figurines representing non-Chinese in foreign attire which date back to the Han and T'ang Dynasties, although such figurines of the Han Dynasty are relatively rare. It was a custom in China to put into the tomb replicas of persons and objects used in everyday life for the service of the dead in an after life. The Chinese of ancient times wanted to be comforted in the future world by their earthly possessions, all kinds of companions, and even by their foreign tradesmen. Some of these figurines show typical Semitic features and probably represent Jewish traders (cf. fig. 1). A number of these figurines, unlike others of the same period representing Chinese, carry a jug in the right hand or pack on the back. The jugs may have some ritualistic meaning.

Evidence of Jewish Traders

There is actual evidence of Jews having used the caravan routes. In Dandan-Uilik near Khotan on the southern route in Turkestan a business letter was found written in the Persian language with square Hebrew characters dating back to the beginning of the eighth century. Another important document was discovered in Tun-Huang, likewise on the southern trade route in Eastern Turkestan. It is a paper sheet composed of passages from the Psalms and Prophets in Hebrew and also dates back to the eighth century. As the material of the paper has been found by experts to be of Chinese origin, this proves that Jewish traders from China were using that route. In Loyang (Honan province), situated on the caravan route, three stones representing parts of gravestones were found with inscriptions in Palmyrene Hebrew dating back to the end of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-221 AD). Palmyra, situated northeast of Damascus, was a free city under Roman suzerainty which revolted against Rome and conquered Syria, Mesopotamia and Egypt in the third century AD until it was finally destroyed by the Romans in 273 AD. Probably at the height of their conquests the Palmyrenes extended their trade relations to China and we must assume that at the time when Palmyra was a great power, Jewish traders from Palmyra went to China.

Persian influence is definitely evident from the numerous Persian terms and words found on the memorial stones and in the still extant Hebrew books of the now extinct Jewish community of Kaifeng.

* * *

IT was only natural that Jewish traders settled down and formed communities in the larger trading centers, especially Kaifeng, once temporary capital of the Chinese Empire during the Sung Dynasty and important center of the silk trade, and in other places such as Peking, Ninghsia,

Loyang, Sian (Changan) and Lanchow. The Jews probably entered China not in a single stream of immigration, but in small detachments, partly to join relatives and friends or because they were forced to leave Persia owing to racial persecution by the Sassanid Persian kings during the third, fourth and fifth centuries. We know of only one major immigration when, during the Sung Dynasty (960-1280), a party of more than 500 Jewish families arrived in China and was welcomed by the Emperor.

Caravan Route Abandoned

When in the 16th century the sea route to the Far East was developed, the caravan route was more or less given up, especially as sand encroachments and political conditions made travelling extremely difficult, dangerous and costly. With the abandonment of the overland route the Jews living in the heart of China were virtually cut off from their country of origin and completely isolated. Most of them depended on the trade between China and the West, with the result that with the diversion of trade to the sea route their business came to a standstill. As they were probably unable to compete with the Chinese in other professions, their economic situation deteriorated automatically.

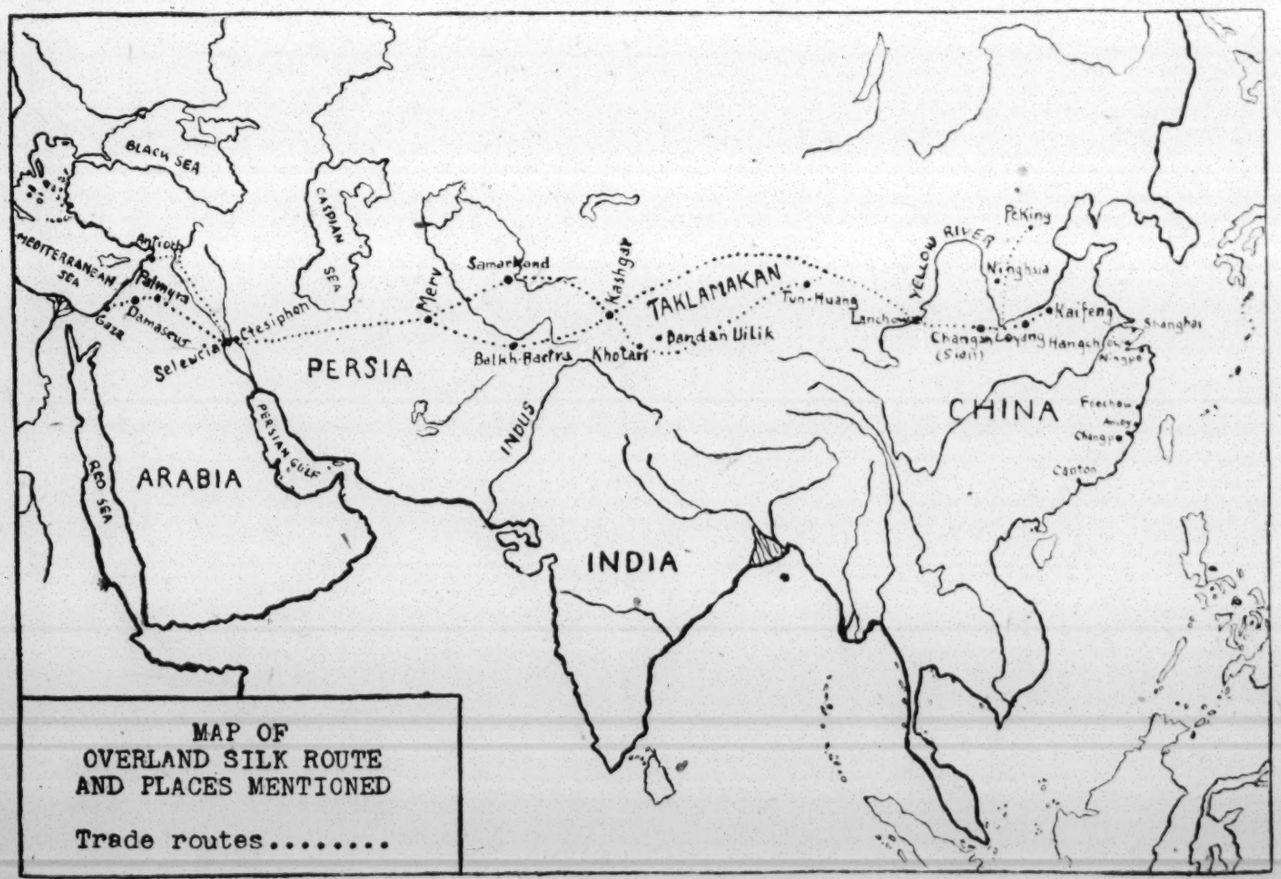
There was another group of Jewish communities along China's coastal line (Canton, Changpu, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Hangchow). The Jews who settled down in these ports had probably arrived from India. While some scholars believe that the Jews entered China from India and by the sea route only, and then proceeded from the coast to Kaifeng and other places in the interior, such a theory is improbable in view of the enormous distances to be covered and the extremely difficult and primitive travelling conditions in ancient China, especially for foreigners. If the Jews had arrived by the maritime route only, the largest communities would have developed in coastal towns and not in the heart of China. Besides, traders arriving over the sea route and settling down in the interior of China would not have been successful in their import and export business if they lacked any knowledge of the particular conditions of the overland trade and the silk route.

* * *

THERE is very little reliable information about the Jews in China during ancient times. The oldest record is considered to be the prophecy of Isaiah (chapter XLIX, 12) on Cyrus about 530 BC: "They shall come from far, and these from the north and from the west and these from the land of Sinim." The term Sinim is very close to the Hebrew plural of the ancient Chinese name of Tsin whose capital was Hien Yang, later Sian, capital of Shensi. The interpretation of the word Sinim is taken as a proof that Jews had already settled down in China in Biblical times. This however, seems questionable, as the earliest references to China in European literature occur just before the beginning of the Christian era. There are indications that in earlier centuries a definite knowledge of nations living in the Far East existed and that some trading between China and the Near East was done through the states and tribes of Central Asia as intermediaries. However, even the deep thrust into Central Asia by Alexander the Great during the fourth century BC did not reach China, but extended only as far as the Taklamakan desert, "the most appalling desert on the face of the earth" as it has been described by a modern traveller. The direct trade route between China and the Mediterranean countries was opened not earlier than during the first century BC after the Chinese Emperor Wu Ti through the war of 104-100 BC succeeded in conquering Ferghana in Central Asia. Only then was China brought into intercommunication with the West.

Chinese records very seldom mention the presence of Jews in China. The first Chinese record seems to be that of Sung-tze-an in his work "Tung-king-ke" which was written during the beginning of the Six Dynasties (222-589). He speaks of a house at Kaifeng set apart for prayers to the Heavenly Spirit. The Chinese writer, Wei-shu, writes about a "Foreign Temple of Heaven" at Changan (Sian), the capital of the Chinese Empire during the T'ang Dynasty (618-907). The record states that this temple was erected in 621 AD.

Soliman of Andalusia in 875-900 found strong Hebrew speaking Jewish communities in all the larger cities of China. In 878 Abou Zeyd Al Hasan, an Arabian writer, mentions Jews as one of the sects who perished



MAP OF
OVERLAND SILK ROUTE
AND PLACES MENTIONED

Trade routes.....

Figure 1: T'ang clay figure with Semitic features in foreign attire. Figures of objects and persons were put into the grave for use in after life. (Author's collection).

in a general massacre which occurred at Khanfu (Canton). Chinese records show that the magistrates of Kaifeng bestowed special honors upon Jews in 958 and 965. From Marco Polo's travels we learn that Jews had some political influence in China and Tartary in the 13th century and that some Jews lived in Cambaluc (Peking) in 1286. The Arab Ibn Batuta in his book mentions the presence of Jews in Hangchow around 1346. According to the records of the Mongolian (Yuan) Dynasty, during the 14th century, Jews—who were called Dju-Hudu (Jehudim)—were invited to join the Imperial Army, which shows that at that time quite a number of them must have resided in China, though the records do not state where the Jews were living.

Stone Tablets

The most important documents pertaining to the history of the Jews in China are the stone tablets in Kaifeng, capital of the Chinese Empire during the Northern Sung Dynasty with the inscriptions of 1489, 1512, 1663, and 1679. From one inscription (1489) we learn that a party of more than 70 clans reached China in the Sung Dynasty (960-1280). Another inscription (1512) says that the Jews came to China during the Han Dynasty (206 BC—221 AD) while the third (1663) ascribes their arrival to the Chou Dynasty (before 255 BC). On these memorial stones the Jews claim that their religion came from Tien Chu or from Hsi-yü (countries of the West). It is not known what the term Tien Chu means. Some authorities translate it India, others Judea or Syria. One of the Sung Emperors welcomed the entry of the Jews by saying: "You have come to Our China; revere and preserve the customs of your ancestors and hand them down at Pien-liang (Kaifeng)."

* * *

THE synagogue, the center of the Jewish community in Kaifeng, was reconstructed in 1163 as recorded in the stone inscriptions, but, as mentioned before, there are indications that a synagogue in Kaifeng existed as early as between the third and fifth century AD. From the stone tablets in Kaifeng we know furthermore that the synagogue was repeatedly damaged by flood and fire and several times repaired and enlarged. In 1461 an inundation by the Yellow River destroyed the greater part of the synagogue buildings. As the Torah scrolls were also destroyed, the Kaifeng Jews obtained copies from the Jewish communities in Ningpo and Ningshia. The synagogue was put up again and in commemoration of the restoration the stone tablet of 1489 was erected.

In 1642 the city of Kaifeng was besieged by the Tartar rebel Li Tzu Cheng. The Jew Li Kuang-tien was the commanding leader of the defending forces. In recognition of his work he was given citations and awards. The city was prevented from falling into the hands of the rebels by cutting the dikes of the Yellow River. The enemy was compelled to withdraw. Most of the inhabitants, amounting to 1,000,000, perished in the inundation, among them many Jews. The synagogue was destroyed and many Hebrew books were lost. Some of the surviving Jews—not more than a couple of hundred families—left Kaifeng for the north and after a number of years members of only seven clans returned. It was another 10 years before a Jewish Imperial officer, Chao Cheng-chi, Lieutenant-Colonel of the West Route Army, reorganized the community and after 27 years rebuilt the synagogue with Imperial permission. Several scrolls of the Law had been salvaged, but they had suffered damage by water. The good sections were cut out and patched together to form one complete scroll only. The twelve other scrolls were gradually restored to make thirteen scrolls complete. In commemoration of the rebuilding of the synagogue the stone tablet of 1663 was erected.

The form of the synagogue was that of a Chinese temple. But whereas Chinese temples face south, the synagogue faced east and the worshippers in performing their religious observances faced west in the direction of Jerusalem, although when the Jewish colony was visited by Jesuits in the 18th century, they had lost all historic traditions concerning Palestine.

Complete Assimilation

The Jesuits also found that the Jewish colony was rapidly declining. The most skilled of its members understood only a few passages of the Pentateuch and of the ritual prayer books, but they still observed some of the customs of their forefathers. They practised circumcision, observed the Sabbath and the festivals, and did not eat pork. Although they were married to Chinese women and had adopted Chinese names, attire and customs, although they had lost many of their ancient characteristics and worshipped Confucius, they were still living as a distinct people in the middle of the Chinese city. The community had considerably decreased. Investigations show that in 1704 only seven clans had survived (Chao, Chin, Kao, Chang, Shih, Li and Ai), comprising about 1,000 people.

The decline and decay of the colony progressed rapidly during the 19th century. In 1850 two Chinese Christians were sent from Shanghai to Kaifeng where they arrived after a tedious journey of 25 days. They found the synagogue in a dilapidated condition as a result of an inundation by the Yellow River in 1849. With their Hebrew letter of introduction, furnished by a Jewish merchant in Shanghai, they were allowed to copy the Chinese and Hebrew inscriptions in the synagogue.

Jewish Community Poor

These two Chinese Christians found that the Jews were poor and unable to repair the buildings. Some of them were shopkeepers, others farmers living at some distance in the suburbs, while a few lived on the synagogue premises, in an almost destitute condition. They numbered only three or four hundred individuals. The Jewish colony had ceased to be a religious one. None of them understood the Hebrew writings. The last rabbi had died in the beginning of the 19th century. The Christian delegates returned to Kaifeng in 1851 to purchase more Hebrew writings. It took a fortnight to persuade the Kaifeng Jews to part with some of their sacred Pentateuchs and books. The two Christians came back to Shanghai with six complete scrolls of the Law and some scores of other Hebrew books. They were accompanied by two of the Kaifeng Jews who had no Hebrew names and were indistinguishable from any other Chinese.

The synagogue must have been destroyed shortly after the second visit of the two Chinese Christians in 1851. In 1866 the first Protestant missionary to visit the colony found only one memorial stone standing on the synagogue site. The buildings had disappeared. To save themselves from perishing of hunger during the days of the Taiping revolution, the Jews had torn down the buildings of the synagogue, already damaged by inundation and sold the stones and timber to the Mohammedans who used the material in the erection of the Great East Mosque. As a community the Jews had been wiped out. They still possessed a few copies of the

Pentateuch, two of which were purchased by a Protestant missionary (named Martin). Some of the Jews had moved away from Kaifeng, others had become Mohammedans. In 1913 the Canadian Church Mission purchased the remaining stones (the second stone had been found built into the wall of a house adjoining the synagogue) of the synagogue under the condition that they should never leave the province, and the site itself was sold to the Mission in 1914 and used for some time as a playground by the YMCA. At present it serves as a place for tanners to dry their hides and spinners to spin silk threads into sewing-silk.

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IN 1900 the "Society for the Rescue of the Chinese Jews" was formed by Jewish residents in Shanghai. A letter in Hebrew and Chinese was addressed to the Jewish community in Kaifeng. The messenger returned with a reply written in Chinese. The reply was somewhat reserved and cautious, probably in view of the strong anti-foreign feeling among the Chinese during the Boxer uprising. The committee urged the Jewish remnants to send some Jews to Shanghai.

In 1901 an elderly Chinese, Li Ching-sheng, with his 12 year-old son, Li Tsung-mai, arrived in Shanghai. Li reported that there were still about 140 adults in Kaifeng who called themselves "Tiao Chin Chiao" or "the religion that plucks out the sinews." This name was probably given to them originally by their neighbors in derision of their kosher practice according to which Jews do not eat sinew in memory of Jacob, who found his sinew shrunken after he had wrestled with the Angel. The remnants of the Kaifeng Jews were reported to have changed this name later on to "Chiao Ching Chiao" or "the religion that teaches the Scriptures." The chief and really only distinction between these descendants of the Kaifeng Jews and other Chinese was that they did not worship idols and did not eat pork. Furthermore, they did not use musical instruments at marriages and they were under no circumstances allowed to consider Mohammedans as belonging to the same race.

It was decided to invite another deputation of Jews to visit Shanghai and in 1902 six, together with the first two who had visited Shanghai earlier, arrived in the city. None of them could read or write Hebrew, nor did they practise any of the Mosaic or Rabbinical laws; the Sabbath was no longer observed and circumcision was no longer practised by any of them. In their external appearance they were indistinguishable from ordinary Chinese except for the face of a youth of 17 who had some semitic features. Their foreheads were shaved, they wore queues and were dressed like ordinary Chinese.

They reported that their women, like all Chinese women of that period, bound their feet. Their dead they buried in coffins, but of a different shape from those of the Chinese; they did not attire the dead in secular clothes as the Chinese did, but in linen.

The group expressed the wish for instruction in the religion of their forefathers and actually received lessons in Hebrew and the Jewish faith. When it became evident that the "Society for the Rescue of the Chinese Jews" would not be able to raise sufficient funds to rebuild the temple which had been the hope of the group, they lost interest and returned to Kaifeng with copies of the Old Testament in Chinese. Li Ching-shen with his son remained in Shanghai, and, when he died a few years later, he was buried in the old Jewish cemetery. His son, Li Tsung-mai, indistinguishable from any other Chinese in the city, very soon revealed no interest in his Jewish education. After working as a clerk in a local Jewish firm for many years, he returned to Kaifeng where he has since died.

Figure 2: Drawing by Domenge in 1722 showing the reading of the Torah from the Chair of Moses. The reader is assisted by a second person who unrolls the scroll as required. A third person checks the reading in a book. Note the Chinese features, queues, dress, shoes and the caps which were of blue color.

At present there are in Kaifeng only a few families left who are known to be descendants of those Jews who came to China many centuries ago. Although they still know that they are of Jewish origin, they differ in no way from their Chinese neighbors. The Jewish community of Kaifeng, once numbering a few thousand people, has been completely as similated. But whereas the Jewish colonies in other cities of China have vanished without leaving any trace known to us, concerning the extinct Jewish community of Kaifeng we possess quite a number of documents. The memorial stones, copies of the inscriptions in the synagogue, Hebrew books and manuscripts, the reports of visitors during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and sketches drawn by a visitor (cf. fig. 2) enable us to form some idea of the culture, the philosophy, and the religious and social life of the Kaifeng Jews and see that they were able to maintain their separate existence for possibly 18 centuries before they were absorbed by their host country.

Causes of Decline

It may be asked why Judaism in China suffered extinction despite the fact that the Jews in China during ancient times were never exposed to anti-semitic persecution. Mohammedanism, the other great religion which came to China from the Near East, rapidly and steadily increased, numbering today between 20,000,000 and 40,000,000 adherents, whereas the Jews in China, in spite of their longer history, their earlier arrival in China and their survival in other countries in the face of the most violent oppression and persecution, were completely assimilated and absorbed.

One of the main reasons was their complete isolation from their co-religionists in other lands for some centuries. They were ignorant of the fact that there were brethren of theirs all over the world. Due to their long isolation, they lost spiritual contact with Judaism. They lost the tradition of their fathers, and all knowledge of their history and their sacred language and with it the knowledge of their scriptures which were never translated into Chinese. Furthermore, they lost the idea and expectation of the coming of the Messiah who would be their saviour and lead them back to the Promised Land.

There was no influx of new life from their country of origin for some centuries. They were forced to endogamy which led to a decline in birth rate, and finally to intermarriage with Chinese. A good number of Jews left Kaifeng for other cities and reduced the number in the Kaifeng community further. Once isolated in other places they lost contact with their cultural and religious center and became Mohammedans. As they made no proselytes, the decline in number was never made up. In contrast to the Chinese Mohammedans they never used the Chinese language as a means of transmitting their scriptures and teachings. The deterioration of their economic condition, resulting in extreme poverty, was a further step towards their denationalization and assimilation. Eventually, they were absorbed by the Chinese who, as history shows, have a tremendous ability to absorb alien races dwelling in their midst.

— *JOSEPH PREUSS*

The American Century?

The record for 1949, with its many upsets to US planners, raises questions as to whether American policy is not producing results quite opposite to those desired.

BETWEEN February 1949 and February 1950, news reports in China and abroad showed that some outstanding trends in world politics have become more clearly marked than ever. In April 1949 the Atlantic Pact was signed; in October the People's Republic of China was founded. The year began with the military and civilian leaders of the United States of America convinced that their course was set and that the 20th Century was to be the "American" Century. It ended with the complete failure of American policy in China, increasing disunity within and among the Marshall Plan countries, and the revelation that the Soviet Union possessed an atomic weapon.

In the March 25, 1949 issue of *US News & World Report* a commentator predicted the outline of the future from America's point of view, as follows: "US entering a military alliance in Europe, is reversing its historic position. . . . What really is forming is the outline of a new League of Nations without Russia and her satellites as members. It is an alliance that will be enlarged. . . ."

Had the commentator also mentioned that the US was extending its hold on Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries and attempting to draw them into a Pacific Pact, prelude to a Pacific military alliance, he would have presented a complete picture of the grand strategy for the "American" Century.

Not entirely, perhaps. He would have had to include the open announcement of plans for the military destruction of the Soviet Union. These plans, however, were given in a later issue of *US News & World Report:* "US war plan for fighting Russia is blueprinted. Three-phase campaign, set down by military leaders, goes this way: Phase 1: Surprise atom-bomb air raids over Russia. Phase 2: Holding operation with European troops. Phase 3: Combined offensive across Europe, spearheaded by American commanders."

So sure of its basic conceptions has the American State Department been, that its radio Voice has said: "No one else can bear the world's problems . . . we cannot avoid world leadership. . . . We are like a man at the wheel of a speeding automobile."

* * *

WHAT has happened to this "speeding automobile?"

At the beginning of 1949, American military planners believed they alone had the atomic bomb and therefore that they possessed a decisive strategic advantage, the weapon of a push-button warfare that could be waged from their basement laboratories.

During the year the naivety of this conception was best illustrated in the United States by the inter-service squabble between the American Air Force and Navy. The Air Force and the Navy each wanted the right for itself to launch the "surprise atom-bomb air raids over Russia," the Navy with super-carriers, the Air Force with super-bombers. In the debate on this issue, both proved that the strategical thinking of the other was unsound, unpracticable, un-American. Both were correct.

The impasse was resolved in favor of the Air Force when Louis Johnson, Secretary of State for War, ordered 169 B-36s, the semiobsolete super-bomber, from Consolidated Vultee, and Admiral Denfeld, Chief of Naval Operations, was dismissed. Some doubts have been raised in America about this deal because Louis Johnson is known to be an ex-member of the Board of Directors of Consolidated-Vultee. It seemed that business had decided where strategists fell out.

Soviet Atomic Weapon

Then it was revealed that Soviet Russia had the atomic weapon.

There was a good deal of panic in America. The American people were hastily told that a sheet of newspaper would give a degree of protection from atomic radiation. But *Business Week*, an influential American journal, said: "Sooner or later somebody else was bound to make an atom bomb. But September 1949 is appallingly sooner than later."

And indeed it was an appalling fact for the planners of "preventative war" to contemplate. The atomic bomb is undoubtedly a frightful weapon of considerable destructive power. Its existence is a menace to the security of the American people and to world security. Those who remember the panic that Orson Welles caused with his realistic radio play about "men from Mars" attacking America can imagine how the American people felt when they were told that the fiction of destruction from the sky had become an actuality.

In 1949 the threat of atomic warfare backfired on America's military leaders. It had been an expensive illusion.

Now, as 1950 begins, it is not surprising that President Truman and his advisers have hesitated about the production of a "hydrogen" atomic bomb, a possible weapon whose destructive power will be, it is said, much greater than that of the Hiroshima uranium bomb. Not only is this hydrogen bomb scheduled to cost between $100,000,000 and $4,000,000,000 - but it may not even work if it is made.

The other point is: Now that the Soviet Union can produce atomic weapons (and its spokesmen said they could in 1947), is it not reasonable to expect that the Soviet Union can produce the hydrogen atomic bomb. The bottom has dropped out of the myth of absolute American military superiority.

In Italy and France

The other great upsets in the conception of American military strategy in 1949 came in Europe and the Far East.

In the Far East, America lost her military bases in China and so shifted her emphasis to Japan. In Europe, France and Italy continued to flounder in insoluble economic problems, and America began to shift her emphasis to the restoration of Western Germany and the encouragement of Franco Spain.

France and Italy were the "white hopes" of the Marshall Plan. But in France, one Cabinet after another has been unable to overcome the problems of deficit financing, severe unemployment, and the bloodletting of the war against Vietnam. In Italy, the government has had to resort to police terrorism to suppress workers' demonstrations and the growing peasant movement. The death roll has increased through 1949 and with it the deep dissatisfaction of the Italian people.

The United States has planned to arm France to the extent of increasing her army from about seven divisions to 40 divisions. Announcements in January 1950 indicate that this arms aid is beginning to flow across the Atlantic to France. But it is extremely doubtful that the present French government will be able to utilize this arms aid. Opposition in France is strong against the American plan to use French soldiers as cannon-fodder in a European "holding operation." The powerful Confederation of Labor has appealed to all French workers to hamper the transportation and manufacture of military equipment. The National Defense Ministry has replied: "Workers will be dismissed if there is a specific mistake in the handling of trains carrying national defense equipment." New security measures, including "stern" treatment for newspapers opposing American arms aid and the war against Vietnam, have been approved by the Council of Ministers. "Necessary police measures will be taken and strengthened."

Germany and Spain

So strong is the opposition to war preparations in France and Italy that the American State Department has been increasingly compelled to turn for support to the neo-fascists of Western Germany and the fascists of Franco Spain.

It is not surprising that Field Marshal Montgomery, chairman of the Western Union Defense Committee, made his proposal for rearming Western Germany at a meeting of 60 leading Wall Street banking and industrial executives, as the New York *Daily Compass* reported on December 13. Montgomery said: "Whoever supplies them (the Germans) with arms under proper control will have them on their side when war comes. For that reason the West must rearm Germany, though not completely. To maintain control an air force should be withheld. As such steps take time, preparation of public opinion to support such a move should begin immediately." He said further: "Planning of a rearmed Germany, however, does not have to await public opinion. Such planning should be begun at once by the Allied governments." Montgomery is reported to have repeated his address at a meeting sponsored by the unofficial but influential Foreign Policy Association and before business-

men's groups in at least two confidential sessions.

Two days after Montgomery's first address, the United States signed a Marshall Aid pact with the West German government on December 15. Under this pact, the West German government agrees to cooperate with the United States when necessary to aid in stockpiling strategic and critical materials available in Germany and to promote increased production of such materials.

Concerning Franco Spain, the US Secretary of State Dean Acheson has addressed a letter to Senator Tom Connally, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, saying that the United States was willing to vote for a resolution in the United Nations leaving each government a free choice of resuming full diplomatic relations with Franco Spain. Following Secretary Acheson's statement, Senator Tom Connally, on January 21, urged the United Nations to rescind its 1946 ban and allow member nations to restore full diplomatic relations with Spain.

In November 1949, seven members of the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee visited Spain. They decided that Spain must be included in America's European Aid Program. Senator Willis Robertson, one of the seven, said: "The Spanish people are proud and warm-hearted. They have the will to work. They have skill and they are brave soldiers."

Disunity in Europe

The decision to back Franco Spain is likely to be as disastrous for American foreign policy in Europe as any other move it could make. It offends even those countries and groups which already support the Atlantic Pact. Senor Indalecio Prieto, Spanish exiled Socialist leader, said in Paris on January 21 that Secretary Dean Acheson's decision to recognize "fascist" Spain played into the hands of communism. He added: "The Atlantic Pact . . . has just been stabbed in the back by Mr. Acheson."

An interesting footnote to the return of Franco Spain to favor is the news that "Mercurio," the European quick-silver trust has ceased operating. The Spanish companies in the trust have succeeded in forcing their Italian partners out of business, and now monopolize the market.

The repercussions of the shifting emphasis of American aid to Spain and Western Germany will probably increase in Europe.

M. Paul Henri Spaak, President of the European Consultative Assembly, told a meeting of the European Movement in London last December that, with Germany beginning to rise again, the counter-balance of Britain in Europe was indispensable. He suggested that a Europe organized around Western Germany would be "not only most inadequate but also detestable."

On January 25, the two highest American officials in Western Germany, General George P. Hays and Political Adviser James W. Riddleberger, were compelled to intervene in the French-German political crisis over the future of the Saar. Fuel had just been added to the dispute by Dr. Dehler, Minister of Justice in the West German government, who in a speech in Hamburg on January 22 denounced "fairy tales of German aggression." He claimed that Hitler was to some extent the result of the pusillanimity of France, and that France after World War I believed the European problem could only be solved by preventing Germany from rising again.

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BUT the most serious conflict between Marshall Plan countries is that between Britain and the United States itself. This conflict is basically economic.

In the years since the end of World War II, the US has tried and partly succeeded in reducing Britain to the rank of a second-rate power, invading Britain's imperial trading preserves, obtaining control over the monetary policy of the sterling area, and relegating Britain to its "proper" place in the design of the American Century.

The US policy of reducing Britain's economic strength by breaking down her protective trade barriers was clearly stated in a *Life* magazine editorial of August 1, 1949. "First the US must recognize that dollars are power. In its dollars the US has the power to loosen and perhaps to smash the constrictions which are throttling the ECA community. . . . The problem is, how to use this power?" The editorial goes on to suggest a measure of dollar backing for every currency in Europe, and continues: "Let no one suggest that the measure suggested here would be either offered or taken as a naive piece of American generosity. In extending any degree of dollar convertability, the US should strike a very tough bargain with the beneficiaries. The essence of the bargain should be a binding commitment on their part to suspend existing devices of restriction as soon as they legally and practicably can. Restrictionism is so firmly imbedded that it could not be rooted out overnight even if its addicts wanted to try. Some of the addicts—notably Great Britain—would certainly resist and might even reject any offer made with the proper conditions. . . ."

In 1949, by sheer economic blackmail, per medium of the International Monetary Fund, the US compelled Britain to devalue sterling after continued protestations that this step would not be taken. The one advantage to Britain was supposed to be the increased opportunity to export to North America. What happened? In his annual statement on January 19, this year, the Chairman of the British National Provincial Bank was quoted as saying that he was

INDISCRIMINATE BOMB

SHANGHAI, on Wednesday January 25, suffered its heaviest air raid since Liberation. The raid came in the middle of the day, and the people of the city found what shelter they could, and waited listening to the drone of the high-flying aircraft, the anti-aircraft fire and the concussion of the bombs.

The twelve American B-24 bombers, escorted by one P-51 fighter and one P-38, dropped a large number of bombs indiscriminately over heavily-populated residential districts.

Smoke hung over the city, rising from burning homes and heavy fires started on the Pootung side, where houses, godowns and one ship were set ablaze.

Rescue work began immediately. Workers in several factories organized emergency first-aid squads, and the police, fire brigades and Health Bureau personnel turned out in force. The fires were brought under control.

The following day rehabilitation and relief work was organized and the recovery of bodies continued. The first casualty lists showed a total of over 70 dead and 300 wounded. No. 3 Godown of the Yee Tsoong Tobacco Company and godowns of the Shell Company were badly damaged. But the most extensive devastation was in the shopping and residential area of Nantao (the old Chinese city), and the residential areas of Yangtzepoo and Yangchiatu in Pootung.

400 buildings were destroyed in the various areas hit.

The newly-formed Joint Rehabilitation Office registered the homeless and the families of those who died in this wanton and murderous attack. Residents of Nantao organized a special comfort corps to inspect the various scenes of damage in that area and to give aid to the victims. Shanghai Benevolent Societies, labor unions and public authorities joined in giving aid.

There were numerous stories of fortunate escapes, and of tragedy.

"even less optimistic about dollar markets, saying that sale of consumer goods on a scale that would affect North American domestic producers (which would be needed to close the dollar gap) will never be achieved or tolerated."

This opinion had been confirmed in America on January 14 when Republican spokesman Senator Brewster said that "if exports continued to drop and imports to climb at the same rate as they did in October and November, well over 3,500,000 men, women and children would lose their meal tickets and 1,500,000 workers would find their jobs eliminated."

America's Own Crisis

At some stage it may have appeared possible that the American economic plan to steer the "speeding automobile" could have succeeded had the ECA countries accepted it completely and there was no back-seat driving.

But the increasingly evident fallacy in this theory is that it does not take account of the fact that the driver of the automobile is out of control himself.

In the US there is a gathering crisis of agricultural over-production (temporarily concealed by enormous government buying of surplus farm products), and a continual lack of confidence in industrial stocks. On January 12 in New York, stock prices on Wall Street plunged $1 to $3 a share under heavy selling. The reports stated: "The decline started without warning about an hour before the market closed. Trading was so heavy that . . . the high speed ticker tape was glutted with quotations. The selling was not influenced by any particular news."

It seems that the problems of the ECA community, Britain included, cannot now be solved under the American plan because the US itself is now approaching a position where it can only solve its own economic crisis at the expense of the ECA countries.

This is particularly noticeable in the case of Britain. Recognizing that there is no solution for her problems in exporting to North America, Britain has been trying to solve her problems by strengthening her economic ties with the British Dominions.

But the United States is taking this measure apart in all directions. It is cutting out Dominion agricultural products from European markets, and cutting out British industrial products from Dominion markets. On January 19, the ECA announced in Washington that no further Marshall Plan financing would be available to Britain to buy Canadian pork products because of the American surplus in this line. Congressional provisions forbid ECA funds being used to buy foreign supplies of any commodity which is in surplus in the US.

At the same time America is selling wheat to Britain while Britain has suspended negotiations for the purchase of Australian wheat. London reports said: "Grain experts calculated that in the recent sale of wheat to Great Britain, the US is the first country that has either sold wheat at below the minimum agreement price or else made allowance for quality."

US Dumping Policy

The US is trying to solve its own agricultural surplus crisis at the expense of the other agricultural producing nations by carrying out an extensive "dumping" policy. It is offering potatoes to Europe, for example, at 1 US cent per 100lbs (Washington press report on January 18).

Then the US is encroaching on Britain's preserve as an industrial power. The latest development in this line is the agreement that has been signed between the American International Harvester Company and the Australian government under which Australia will purchase a large amount of agricultural machinery without having to spend dollars in America. Instead, all profits on the deal will be used by the International Harvester Company to build a subsidiary in Australia.

Closer to home, it was announced in Washington on January 18 that "ECA yesterday made a heavy cut in funds earmarked for a British petrol refinery near London from US$10,043,000 to US$2,455,000. Officials denied that it was a retaliatory move by the US for the recent British action to discriminate against American oil companies."

* * *

WHILE America is attempting in Europe, and in the sterling areas, to take measures to stem her own economic crisis, in the Far East she is completely on the defensive.

The formation of the People's Republic of China has upset all calculations. The "outline of a new League of Nations without Russia and her satellites as members," which *US News & World Report* predicted would grow in 1949, has proved another expensive illusion.

In self-defense against the possible consequences of a new American League of Nations, other countries have stuck firmly to the United Nations Organization. The attitude taken by member nations during the absence of the Soviet Union from the Security Council (while Dr. T. F. Tsiang is still allowed to keep his seat) is of considerable interest. Reports from Lake Success say: "Many of the smaller agencies of the United Nations are continuing their work, but the Security Council with its branches . . . is virtually stalled on matters of substance. This is because of the disposition on the part of members not to bring up questions of importance in the absence of the Soviet delegate."

In fact, the recognition of the People's Republic of China by Britain,

BOMBING OF SHANGHAI

In one home that was wrecked, five children were sheltering under the stairs and escaped without injury. In another part of the city, two bridal couples were leaving a restaurant when their carriage was crushed under the wall of a falling building and all were killed.

There were a few individuals in Shanghai who spread a rumor that this raid was a prelude to a more general slaughter and that, with new American aid, the Kuomintang would come back. They were inspired by the news the day before the raid that Mr. Acheson had agreed to extend aid to Chiang Kai-shek on Taiwan. Mr. Acheson had said that he was not opposed to a bill pending before Congress which would extend the expiration date of funds available for the Kuomintang from February 15 to June 30. The amount affected was about US$106,000,000.

The relationship between the news of additional American aid, and the murderous attack on Shanghai that came the day after this news, was seen in a different light by the people of Shanghai. They hold these views:

There is not the slightest chance that the Kuomintang can return to China. There is not the slightest chance that it can hold Taiwan. It is militarily, economically and politically inconceivable. This indiscriminate bombing of civilians cannot hold back the march of progress in China: it will merely strengthen the resolve of the people to end Chiang's career once and for all. Further, it adds to the tide of bitterness against the present American State Department policy and all that it stands for.

It is indeed time that some direct words were used to characterize those who connive in useless and wanton killing. No creed or philosophy on earth can let pass the slaughter of the innocent without demanding ultimate judgment on the murderers.

India and other countries, and its future participation in the work of the United Nations will considerably strengthen that organization. The US State Department's blind opposition to the new China will only succeed in isolating America in world politics and dispersing the dream of the American Century.

Surveying Far Eastern affairs, the influential British newspaper, the *Manchester Guardian*, said on January 23: "A situation where the Western Powers aim to use the Far Eastern peoples for their own ends, risking a war in Asia for objects of no great interest to Asiatics, would be ideal for the Communists."

In the French National Assembly on January 28, H. Lambert Saravane, Overseas Independent deputy representing French India, said, regarding the peoples of the Far East: "We have been told by the (French) government that Ho Chi Minh is a Communist: I tell you that in Asiatic countries one cannot separate Communist Party action from that of the Nationalist parties. Mr. Mao Tze-tung's victory was acclaimed by the Vietnamese people and by every other people of Asia."

* * *

THE irony of the consequences of American policy in the Far East is that the US is now seeking a "stable, prosperous and *rearmed* Japan" as a "bulwark against communism" in the Pacific.

For the sake of the American Century, the State Department planners are resurrecting their own most deadly enemy. And the conservative Japanese leaders are asking, as the price for a Japan-American military alliance, a separate peace and considerable American aid. We have the extraordinary spectacle of an American General, Robert Eichelberger, once MacArthur's assistant and now United States adviser on Far Eastern Affairs, saying in favor of a military alliance with Japan: "Japanese soldiers would be the commander's dream. They are the kind who will stay on a ridgetop until they die."

America is resurrecting the Japan of the Zaibatsu, the monopoly industrialists. But unless Japan can trade with China (which took 30 percent of the total Japanese prewar export trade), Japan will be an enormous burden on the already over-strained American economy. Besides, Japanese competition in the Far East and India will add to the crisis facing Britain's economy, and the economy of the British Dominions.

The consequences of present US policy seem to produce results quite opposite to those desired. The possibility of an American Century is fast fading.

And if, in despair at ever realizing their dream by other means, American commanders spearhead West German and Spanish troops across Europe and Japanese troops onto hilltops, who can doubt that these troops will die there and that no one shall mourn them.

— *F. K. N*

"Harmony" and "Progress" in Malaya

Washington, January 15, 1950

"THE British have and are discharging their responsibility harmoniously with the people of Malaya and are making progress." —US Secretary of State Dean Acheson in speech to the National Press Club.

New Delhi, January 18, 1950

"We have declared that the purpose of our presence in Malaya is to prepare the way for self-government . . . We are doing everything to build up a constitution which will really create nationhood there, and I think it is with the agreement of all communities in Malaya that the present system is going forward."—Mr. Noel-Baker, British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

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Peking, Dec. 10, 1949
New China News Agency

"The Central Committee of the Malayan Communist Party and the Malayan National Liberation Army General Headquarters are reported to have issued a joint manifesto on December 1 formally announcing the establishment of the Malayan National Liberation Army to centralize the leadership of the various scattered people's armed forces.

"The manifesto depreciated the atrocious war waged by British imperialism in Malaya for the slaughter of the people . . . The Malayan people have started a nation-wide national revolutionary war against British imperialism, for national liberation and the people's democracy, happiness and economic prosperity."—*Ta Kung Pao*, Dec. 12, 1949.

From the Singapore Correspondent of *The Times*

"The security position in Malaya today is undoubtedly much better than it was a few months ago. . . Casualities have been mounting in favor of the security forces, and an increasing number of wanted men have been arrested through ordinary police channels . . .

"The situation is not, however, as good as it looks on the surface. The hard core of insurgents, numbering perhaps only between 500 and 1,000 men, is as yet hardly touched . . . Until this hard core is physically eliminated from the confines of Malaya there can be no complacency . . .

"The great expansion launched by the police when the emergency began is showing results: regular police are coming forward in a steady stream from the training depots and many new police posts have been established in out-of-the-way areas . . .

"Of the many measures taken by the civil authorities none has had more effect than those designed to bring the squatter problem under control. Some specially notorious communities have been shifted *in toto* and a few hundred Chinese have been sent back to China."—*North China Daily News*, Nov. 21, 1949.

Singapore, May 9, 1949 *Reuter*

"The Malaya Federation Government today officially banned the local organizations of foreign political associations in Singapore. The leftist 'China Democratic League' and the Kuomintang are the only two groups affected. It does not affect the Malayan Indian Congress.

"The announcement said the Government considered the organization 'an obstacle to the development of Singapore's political consciousness.'" — *Shanghai Evening Post*, May 10, 1949.

London, March, 31, 1949 *Reuter*

"British Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones told the House of Commons today that 4,076 of the 5,291 people under detention in the Federation of Malaya and Singapore on January 21 had made objections to the advisory committees. Latest available information was that 112, whose objections had been heard, had since been released" — *China Daily Tribune*, April 2, 1949.

London, Feb, 21, 1949 *Reuter*

"British and Colonial students and young working people today demonstrated in front of Malaya House, in Trafalgar Square, here, against the 'war' in Malaya . . .

"Mothers of British soldiers serving in the East formed part of a deputation which delivered demands for the withdrawal of British troops from Malaya at the Colonial Office today." — *China Daily Tribune*, Feb. 23, 1949.

Singapore, Jan. 1, 1949 *UP*

"The Federal Government today estimated that the anti-Communist campaign in 1948 cost Straits $22,500,000 with the combined civilian and military tolls higher than Communist deaths and the number of wounded civilians far outstripping the number of Communist wounded.

"The total civilian, military and police deaths were 454 and the wounded numbered 384. The total of Communist bandits killed was 408 and wounded totalled 62.

"The civilian casualties of 312 included 24 Europeans, mostly British and Scottish rubber planters. Civilians wounded numbered 186 and included 14 Europeans."—*North China Daily News*, Jan. 3, 1949.

China's 1950 Agricultural Program

Increase of foodstuff and cotton production to be pushed through promotion of water conservancy, land reclamation, livestock breeding, pest control and other measures.

CHINA is embarking this year on a large-scale agricultural program designed to restore agricultural production so far as possible to prewar levels and specifically to boost production of foodstuffs and cotton.

To do this, the government is promoting measures for the mobilization of the nation's farmers, an increase in livestock breeding, construction of water conservancy and land reclamation projects, and a wide variety of programs to improve the supply of fertilizer and seeds, eliminate pests, manufacture agricultural implements, and strengthen scientific research.

The 1950 agricultural plan was agreed upon at the National Agricultural Production Conference held in Peking last month.

It pointed out that the production level of China's agriculture during the war years because of the famines and floods has dropped to about 25 percent below prewar. In some of the newly liberated areas, current production is as much as one-third below the prewar norm, while in the older liberated areas, despite measures to restore production, it is still about 14 percent below prewar.

* * *

Goals Vary

THE production drive, therefore, is to be tailored to the situation in different areas. The goals are considerably higher for the old liberated areas, where land reform has been established and where the peasants have been supplied with production materials and tools, than they are for the more newly liberated areas where reform has been limited to rental and interest reductions, protection of tenancy rights and the like.

In the old liberated areas the general demand is for an increase in production of 10 percent over 1949. However, this is not a hard and fast rule. Districts facing "greater difficulties" are asked only to show "some production increase," while those in which "more favorable factors" exist are to seek prewar production levels.

The prewar levels have been set according to the highest production years on record. In the Northeast, the level is to be the year 1944; in the Shensi-Kansu-Ninghsia Border Area, it is 1946; and in the old liberated areas within the Great Wall, it is to be the average for the years 1931-36.

For the newly liberated areas the general demand is confined to the maintenance of the 1949 production level. Here again, the situation varies, and in localities with more favorable conditions a somewhat higher goal is to be set, while in those which have been stricken with floods and drought, the aim is to "conquer" these difficulties.

The basic production task is an increase in production of foodstuffs and cotton to ensure supplies for military, civilian and industrial needs. Foodstuffs are to be boosted by 10,000,000,000 catties, while cotton fields are to be extended to 50,000,000 mow with a total production of 1,300,000,000 catties. Production increases for other agricultural items such as ramie, silk, tea and sugar cane are to be worked out after full consideration of conditions in the producing areas.

In formulating measures to accomplish this task, the 1950 plan lists first the "mobilization and organization of labor in great force to restore and raise cultivation operations." This is to be done by promoting more organized mutual aid among the peasants, such as has been started in the old liberated areas, and by mobilizing increased numbers of women to participate in production. In districts where peasant organization is strong, the plan declares, it should be possible to draw upon from 50 to 70 percent of available female labor, while in the newly liberated areas the goal should be set at around 40 percent of the existing female labor potential.

In line with this, the system of rotating crops is to be encouraged (such as kaoliang, grains, beans, wheat and other cereals), as is the system of alternate layers of crops during the same sowing.

The second measure to make possible an increase of production is the promotion of livestock breeding. This is to be carried out by means of widespread inoculation of livestock, centralized manufacture of vaccines, reorganization of veterinary institutions and training of veterinary personnel, plague prevention and inspection measures, prohibition of the butchery of ploughing cattle, pregnant livestock and publicly owned livestock, importation of improved breeds and experiments with artificial insemination, and encouragement of improved breeding through competitive shows and the like.

The goal set for the old liberated areas this year is a total of 1,400,000 head of cattle and for the newly liberated areas the preservation of the existing number. Breeding of horses and mules is to be gradually stepped up with the objective of reaching 2,100,000 head.

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Water Conservancy

THE third feature of the program is the promotion of water conservancy through the extension of irrigation facilities, drilling of wells and construction of dikes and reservoirs to prevent floods. A total area of 5,500,000 mow is to be given access to adequate irrigation facilities through repairs to existing facilities and construction of new ones. The management and organization of irrigation projects is to be strengthened, and consumption of water is to be closely supervised in order to permit the extension of irrigation facilities over wider areas. One hundred fifteen thousand new wells are to be drilled and 111,000 water wheels added with the objective of increasing the acreage of water fields by 2,700,000 mow. Mechanized well drilling teams are to be organized in the Northeast, North China and in Honan province, and special organizations are to be set up to promote the manufacture of water wheels and the drilling of wells.

A fourth step is to increase the supply of fertilizer by extending the use of chemical fertilizer as well as utilizing that of livestock and human excretion, developing pastures in uncultivated land, and improving the storage of fertilizers.

Fifth, a mass pest control movement is to be launched. The Ministry of Agriculture has been directed to establish from 25 to 30 pest extermination centers in areas seriously affected by pests. Large quantities of DDT and other modern insecticides are to be imported, while an arsenic factory is to be established at Chuchow and a chemical works in Shantung province to manufacture native insecticides. Ten thousand new spraying machines are to be produced.

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Improved Seeds

PROMOTION of improved seeds is the sixth step. An area of 14,640,000 mow is to be planted with improved seeds in 1950, and it is hoped that within five years only improved seeds will be sown throughout the country. A seed company is to be organized and a seed inspection system inaugurated. Selected areas will be devoted to the production of improved seeds, and peasants are to be given guidance in their choice of seeds.

To increase the supply of agricultural implements, as a seventh measure, the establishment of some 100,000 blacksmith shops, tool making establishments and carpentry shops is to be promoted. Manufacturing goals include 20,000 horse-drawn ploughs, 30,000 "liberation" hoes, 2,000 mowing machines, and 50,000 other assorted implements.

Eighth on the list is the reclamation of 16,000,000 mow of waste land, and increasing the acreage of cultivated land (excluding reclaimed waste land) by 3,000,000 mow. An experimental state farm also is to be established in this connection.

Finally, the plan envisages intensified research and experimentation during 1950 in the fields of foodstuffs and cotton production. Studies are to be made on the cultivation of improved cotton and foodstuffs seeds (mainly rice, wheat, corn, kaoliang and potatoes), the production of cheap and effective insecticides, and the effective introduction of crop rotation and the system of alternate layers of different crops in the same sowing.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

PLA in East Yunnan; American Hydrogen Bomb; British Elections

THE People's Liberation Army marching into East Yunnan was enthusiastically helped and welcomed by the Miao, Lolo, Sha and Yao minority peoples all along the way, the *New China News Agency* reports.

The Miao and Lolo people are hill tribes of southern China and have a long history. They were driven southward from the north about 800 BC and were finally conquered by Chien Lung, a Manchu Emperor during the Ching dynasty. They led a miserable life in the mountainous regions during the years of Kuomintang oppression.

Learning that the People's Liberation Army men were coming, groups of the Lolo and Miao peoples joined the support-the-front organizations formed by the local population to prepare food and repair roads for the PLA. They set up many tea stands and transportation stations along the routes of march and even old women and children climbed the mountain tops to boil water for the passing troops.

Many mountain dwellers carried to the people's fighters corn and grain which they had hidden from the Kuomintang in far mountain regions. The Lolo people near Funing organized a dance troupe to welcome the people's army.

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Peasant Movement in Honan

FOLLOWING liberation, peasants in Honan are playing an important role both politically and militarily in the rural districts, the Shanghai *Sin Wan Jih Pao* reports. The Farmers' Associations and armed militia have played an important part in the suppression of bandits, in overthrowing the oppressors, and in the campaign for rent reduction.

At present, membership of Farmers' Associations is around 2,218,500 in Honan, which is about 30 percent of the total population in areas where a mass movement has been launched.

In most districts of Honan, Farmers' Associations have been set up. A preparatory committee for the establishment of a Provincial Farmers' Association was inaugurated in the early part of this month. The committee has decided to call a conference of delegates of farmers from the whole province in the latter part of February, when the Provincial Farmers' Association is expected to be inaugurated.

The report continues that, in some districts, landlords have infiltrated into the farmers' organizations and taken them over. However, they are being unmasked and weeded out. Farmers' Associations, Farmers' Committees and political organizations are chiefly led by the poor farmers and hired hands. Middle class farmers, however, are allowed proportionate representation in these organizations.

In the agrarian movement, women play an important part too. Some 800,000 women have been organized.

About 38,000 poor farmers in the province have been admitted into membership of the Communist Party, and party organizations have been set up in most villages.

Political power in most of the villages in Honan is now vested in the hands of the farmers. Of the 86 districts in Honan, 52 are already in the farmers' hands. The number of peasant militia has risen to 140,000, and the people's armed forces greatly contribute to the establishment of peace and order in the rural districts.

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Film Industry Plan

A 1950 plan for China's state-owned film industry has been worked out by the cinema department of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Central People's Government.

Three state-owned film studios in the Northeast, Peking and Shanghai will produce 26 feature films and 66 newsreels, documentaries and cartoon films this year, according to the plan.

Chinese dialogue will also be synchronized for many Soviet features, documentaries and educational films.

The films produced by China's young state-owned film industry are still unable to meet the growing demand for films among the people, particularly among workers and peasants, the plan points out.

Efforts will be made to help private film companies in China to produce more films, and progressive films from all countries will also be shown to the public.

Seven hundred mobile cinema teams will be formed this year to bring the cinema to the factories, the villages and the troops of the army.

* * *

Australia Will Wait

AUSTRALIA will not recognize the Central People's Government of China for the time being, Mr. Percy Spender, Australian Minister for External Affairs, said in Sydney on January 28 on his return by air from the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers conference at Colombo.

The Australian Foreign Minister said the proposal for economic aid to Southeast Asian nations made at the Colombo conference would go a long way towards "checking communism" in that part of the world.

He declared that the scheme would come up for discussion at the next Commonwealth conference scheduled to he held in Australia within the next three months.

Mr. Spender revealed that Australia had pressed for an early peace treaty with Japan at the Colombo conference. He wanted Australian participation in drafting the Japanese peace treaty, he said, because of the part Australia played in the Pacific war against Japan.

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British Election Campaign

SIR Hartley Shawcross, Attorney-General in the British Labor government, on January 22 criticized comparisons of Britain with European countries that were made by Winston Churchill, Conservative leader, in a pre-election speech the previous day.

Addressing an election meeting at Bolton, Lancashire, Sir Hartley criticized Churchill and the Conservatives who "constantly point to the advantages in Belgium and France and even Germany where rationing by poverty has taken the place of rationing by the Food Ministry."

"Churchill invites you to follow the trends in capitalist Europe," he said. "I bought some butter in Paris last week. It cost six shillings a pound."

He asked: "Is that what we are to have?

"In Western Germany they have 2,000,000 unemployed. It is easy to take commodities off the ration when there are so many people without the means of buying unrationed goods.

"Mr. Churchill says it is the solemn duty of the state to prevent unemployment.

"He forgot to tell you that in every European country which has abandoned the Socialist system of planned economy, unemployment has gone up to serious levels—10 percent in Belgium, nearly 2,000,000 in Italy, in France an increase of 500 percent in two years.

"The Labor Government, with its planned Socialist economy, is the only government in the whole history of Britain in peace-time since the industrial revolution which has succeeded in avoiding mass unemployment."

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ON January 28, Winston Churchill made a speech in his own Woodford (Essex) constituency in which he abandoned his more cautious approach of the week before. He assailed "the sorry and wanton machinations" of the Liberal Party and claimed he could see a "hidden plot" in the election program of the Labor Party.

London opinion, some of it pro-Conservative, speculated upon the effect of this new, violent approach of Churchill's, comparing it with his attacks on the Labor Party during the 1945 election which alienated a large section of the electorate from the Conservative Party. The question

was asked whether Churchill may not again have tended to estrange the sympathy of the middle class "floating vote."

The coveted British political "floating vote" is believed to be liberal in sympathy although often hesitant to vote for the Liberal Party, which few believe can win an election.

In this coming election, the Liberal Party has refused to enter into a coalition with the Conservative Party, and therefore both Labor and Conservative are trying to win the liberal vote.

In his election speech, Churchill attacked the Liberal Party for standing in the way of a Conservative victory by tending to take votes from the Conservative Party. He alleged that "a small group of left-wing Liberals" are now planning to run 400 candidates in the hope "that by splitting the vote they may frustrate the will of the majority of the nation."

* * *

THE *New York Times*, on January 30, carried a rumor about a possible American dollar loan to Britain, with a likely figure of US$2,000,000,000 given as an estimate of the loan.

The paper went on to say that "the task of winning the American people over to an additional loan" would be much easier if the British people would only elect Churchill and the Conservatives in the coming election. In that event, it could be said that the necessity of advancing money to Britain was to help her "to repair the damage done by five years of Socialist rule."

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THE British Communist Party is reported to have pressed the British Broadcasting Corporation for radio time for the election campaign in which it aims to put forward 100 candidates.

The Labor Party and the Conservatives will have five broadcasts each and the Liberals three. Any smaller party nominating 50 candidates will qualify for one broadcast.

A Communist Party spokesman said that his party was making representations for a better allocation in the election broadcasts. "So far we have been offered only 10 minutes on one night nine days before polling." He said that as the Communist Party was putting forward 100 candidates, it was "entitled to a better deal."

The Communist Party has two representatives in the present Parliament of 640 members. Registered membership of the party, according to recent figures, is 40,161. In 1945 at the last general election, 102,780 people voted for Communist candidates.

* * *

British-Soviet Society

MR. D. N. Pritt, Labor Independent member of the British House of Commons, told a meeting of the British-Soviet Society in London on January 29 that an American scheme to try to create a war between two halves of the world had been imported into Britain together with the Marshall Plan.

"We have to fight it," he declared.

Mr. Pritt was supporting, at the Society's annual meeting, a resolution which declared that "a great British-Soviet friendship movement is urgently needed" for Britain. Peace through greater cooperation with the Soviet Union was one of the aims of the resolution. The resolution was carried.

Mr. Pritt said that for more than 30 years there had been attempts to destroy friendship with the Soviet Union. "They have not succeeded, neither have we succeeded as far as we would like in building or rebuilding that friendship."

Chinese Press Opinion:

The KMT Bombing of Shanghai

ON January 26, 1950 the *Sin Wen Jih Pao*, the *Ta Kung Pao* and the *Giefang Rhbao* all condemned the bombing of Shanghai on January 25, 1950 as wanton. The *Giefang Rhbao* in one of its two stories on the bombing said: "Yesterday, 14 American-made planes of the bandits carried out an insane raid against Shanghai. According to still incomplete reports, over 400 houses were demolished. Thus a new item is added to the long list of blood debts which the bandits owe the Chinese people.

"The latest bloody crime, aside from enabling us to realize the bestial depravity of the bandits when confronted by their impending doom, also serves as the best possible clarification of what Acheson chose to call, 'America's friendship to the Chinese people'," said the *Giefang Rhbao*.

"It further teaches the Chinese people a lesson in coming to understand the true nature of the imperialists and their running dogs, and in realizing the absolute necessity for liberating Taiwan and Tinghai, as well as exterminating all of the remnant bandits. . ."

In conclusion the article urges the people to subscribe to Victory Bonds "in order to give all possible support to our armed forces working for the liberation of Taiwan and Tinghai, so that they may drive the bandits out of their last lair, and square these accounts of blood for us."

In another article on the same day in the *Giefang Rhbao*, the areas most heavily affected by the bombing, in which "12 Chiang bandit B-24 heavy bombers, one P-51 fighter aircraft, and one P-38 observation plane, all manufactured by American imperialism" took part—were given as Shihlupu, Kaochangmiao in Nantao, Yangtszepoo, and Yangchiatu in Pootung and the paper pointed out that "the large number of casualties inflicted coupled with the heavy damage done to properties surpassed anything experienced since the liberation of the city. Between 40—50 bombs were reported to have been dropped, and many fires were started.

The article then quoted the reaction of various people. The workers of the No. I Mill of the China Vegetable Oil Corporation were reported to have said: "The strength of the people cannot be belittled. We must fight our way to Taiwan and annihilate the Chiang bandit band there so as to avenge the death of our brothers and sisters." Another comment was that of a Mr. Chen, a resident of Yangshuochieh in Shihlupu, who said: "On the eve of the imminent doom of bandit Chiang, he still used American manufactured planes to bomb Chinese civilians. It is only by supporting the front to exterminate the bandit bands in Tinghai and Taiwan that we, the people of Shanghai, will be able to live in peace."

On the same subject the *Sin Wen Jih Pao* was strongly critical of "American imperialism and of the Chiang bandits:" Saying: "We accuse the American imperialists and the Chiang bandits of an inhuman outrage before the people of the world. In the past we had settled a grudge of such a nature with the Japanese militarists and, hereafter, we shall settle our accounts with the American imperialists and the Chiang bandits.

"This new item of blood-debt shall be entered into the account of American imperialism because of the simple fact that the planes used for butchering the Chinese people are apparently of American manufacture. In their fear of antagonizing the Chinese people, both Truman and Acheson hypocritically declared that America is not going to occupy Taiwan by force; but, at the same time, tanks and planes have secretly been sent to Taiwan, and possibly, air force personnel of American imperialism and of the Japanese bandits are being employed directly for the butchery of the Chinese people. . ."

The *Ta Kung Pao* in a short comment under the title "Blood Debts Shall Ultimately Be Squared," said: "Though the last days of the Chiang bandits' shameless existence are close at hand, they still refuse to wake up to the truth but persist in employing their limited number of American-supplied planes for indiscriminately raiding Shanghai and murdering the Shanghai people. It is but rational for the Shanghai people to become highly incensed and to affirm their solemn determination to take Taiwan as well as to capture the chief bandit in order to avenge the death of innocent citizens.

"The strength of the people," continues the *Ta Kung Pao*, "is irresistible. With the blood of the dead right before our eyes, we should not be satisfied with mourning for these unfortunates alone; we ought to be determined in our faith and march resolutely forward.

"To the next of kin of the deceased, we offer our heartfelt condolences. . . ."

Articles of Interest:

Labor Union Organization in Shanghai

THE following summary report on the organization of Shanghai's workers after the liberation is taken from an article by Chou Ping-kun in a recent issue of the *Giefang Rhbao (Liberation Daily)*.

The writer explains that "with their long established tradition of struggle, under the leadership of the Communist Party, against imperialism and the Kuomintang reactionaries, the workers in Shanghai were quickly organized after the liberation of the city."

Seven months later, he reports, by the end of 1949, 24 industrial Workers Unions had been officially inaugurated, preparatory committees set up for five others, while unions of the lower grades totalled 342, with preparatory committees formed for another 848. The total number of workers thus organized numbered 938,457, or 87.52 of Shanghai's 1,072,134 workers.

Five days after the People's Liberation Army entered Shanghai "a meeting was called of representatives of the city's workers, labor leaders of the underground movement, and those who had been forced to leave Shanghai but who now returned to the city. This junction of forces produced the preparatory committee for the Shanghai General Labor Union..." And so "the work of labor unions was turned from secret organization to open promotion."

The new committee assembled leaders in all fields and formed 103 work teams which were placed under the work committee for the 15 main industrial categories. These teams were soon in active contact with all sections of the workers. Leadership was drawn from former underground organizations, experienced in the struggle, such as the Plant Protection Corps, labor federations and vocational workers federations.

"Work in actual organization," he said, "was started in the large industrial units where the foundations had been well built, and preparatory committees in these units were formed as soon as possible. The unity of those workers in State enterprises who had spontaneously organized themselves to assist in the take-over greatly facilitated the subsequent work of labor organization."

Among former organizations "which had been subjected to more than normal exploitation," backward workers, still semi-feudal in outlook, had to be patiently re-educated. In the Wharf Workers Union, "the workers had previous been employed on the contract labor system, often getting only some 20 to 30 percent of the wages actually paid for their work. In the organization of these workers the policy adopted was the mobilization of the masses, winning over the smaller foremen, and neutralizing the employers in an all-out attack on the exploiting contractors. The wharf workers were given continuous education, and the services a union would give them were explained. Finally their enthusiasm was aroused and their organization successfully undertaken...

"In the Cheng Tai Rubber works, special agents exploited the backward elements among the workers for the spreading of rumors and other sabotage activities, and even openly obstructed the cadres entrusted with union organization work. But these subversive elements were soon isolated as the workers were educated, and the special agents were defeated.

"There were also cases in which the capitalists, ignorant of the new policy pursued by the Government, adopted a hostile attitude towards the workers, and resorted to various means to undermine the work of union organization." In such circumstances, the writer explains, "while the legitimate interests of the workers were protected to the fullest extent, the capitalists were also approached and by means of argument were persuaded to recognize the unreasonableness of their attitude."

The major processes gone through so far in the organization of unions are summed up by the writer as follows:—

1) Stress on the unity of all workers and employees within the same industry. (Chou Ping-kun points out that the KMT's policy had been to disrupt and divide the workers by creating distinctions of class, of clique, of age, domicile and sex.) One principal union was therefore set up for related industries in order to eliminate the old conception of the hong system. "Clerical employees and manual laborers were also educated to respect and help one another."

2) The enlistment of members for the unions. The preparatory committees launched campaigns for group discussion among the workers, and they were encouraged to apply for membership spontaneously. "Reactionary elements, when they tried to use membership for their own ends, were made to review their past mistakes before small groups of the whole body of workers" who were thus taught that participation meant the fulfilment of certain obligations and conditions.

3) The holding of elections. "The successful unity of the workers," the writer points out "depended greatly upon the proper conduct of elections."

"Generally speaking," the article concludes, "the task of the organization of unions is being smoothly carried out."

A proposal to change the title of the Society to "The British-Soviet Friendship Society," sponsored by seven branches, was accepted.

* * *

American Hydrogen Bomb

AMERICAN government and congressional opinion is split into several camps, Washington press reports say, on whether the United States should build a "hydrogen" atomic bomb, a new atomic weapon that some US scientists claim can be made.

The weapon is explained to be in effect merely a mass of hydrogen gas which explodes by the simple process of fusing hydrogen atoms together to form helium gas. To produce the explosion, temperatures and pressures of millions of degrees and pounds, such as exist in the sun, are required, the experts says. Both are given by the ordinary uranium bomb momentarily. The question is whether this momentary flash could be used to set off a hydrogen bomb. And some scientists hold that only sustained million degree temperatures could make it possible.

There is also some doubt as to the destructive power of the speculative hydrogen bomb. Senator Edwin Johnson of Colarado claimed it would be 1,000 times more powerful than the wartime bomb. Other reports mention a figure of 100 times. The official estimate was given as 50 times, and the scientific calculations of the power contained within equal amounts of hydrogen atomic material and uranium material give the hydrogen material seven times the energy of the uranium material.

While the scientific debate continues, American leaders are taking sides on whether the bomb should be produced. The atomic scientist, Dr. Arthur Compton, Nobel Prize Physicist and director of the Metallurgical Atomic project, thinks work should begin on the bomb, but advocates sounding national opinion on future policy through a bill. Democratic Senator Elbert Thomas said: "If anyone is going to build a bomb we should build it." Congressman Charles Eaton, senior Republican member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, is against building the bomb.

President Truman is reported to have said that he "alone" would make the decision whether on not to proceed with the manufacture of a hydrogen bomb.

On January 28, Senator Tom Connally, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Atomic Energy Committee, said: "The United States should arm itself with the hydrogen bomb . . . We must remain strong."

The following day the *New York Times* in an editorial said it would be "suicidal" for the United States to cease developing atomic weapons. The editorial continued saying that it would be pleasanter "to live in a world in which our own country was compelled to slaughter millions of people in other countries by use of the H-bomb" than to have the American people attacked by such a bomb from outside.

Attack on Britain

SENATOR George Malone (Republican) charged in the American Senate on January 24 that United States supplies were finding their way to the Soviet Union and strengthening the Soviet Union "for the next world war."

Mr. Malone introduced a resolution to "prohibit material or other aid to any foreign country engaged in assisting or trading with Russia, her satellite countries, or any other state dominated or controlled by Russia."

He claimed that Marshall Plan aid was finding its way from European countries in the form of finished goods to the new democracies of eastern Europe.

He claimed that nations, including Britain, who furnished goods to China "are actually in a sense our enemies."

He said that the British government had made it clear that Britain intended to become a bridgehead in China between the Chinese government and American capitalists. "Now they are being just that," he said.

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Yugoslav Electoral Law

THE Yugoslav National Assembly at Belgrade on January 21 passed a new electoral law which would permit "elections of opposition candidates not sponsored by the Communist-dominated People's Front," Belgrade reports say.

The old system of fixed lists of candidates is abolished. Instead, there will now be individual candidates, who must, however, have the support of at least 100 voters in half the communities of the constituency.

The new measure provides for a secret, direct and general ballot as hitherto.

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Clash in Hongkong

SCORES of people were injured in Hongkong on January 30 in a street battle between tramway workers and police.

Workers demonstrating against a continued Christmas time lock-out by employers fought a squad of police posted outside union headquarters after the police attempted to seize a louderspeaker, Hongkong reports say.

The police used tear-gas bombs in two clashes that followed. First casualty reports say that 20 tramwaymen and a number of bystanders were injured, six seriously. Three Europeans and a number of Chinese policemen were slightly injured. The latest casualty reports say that 60 workers, including delegates from other utility company unions who demonstrated with the tramwaymen, had been sent to hospital. These and ten others have been arrested.

Serious repercussions are thought possible within the Colony.

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A New Publication

ON New Year's Day, the *Foreign Language Press* in Peking published the first issue of its new English-language magazine *People's China*.

In a message to readers the editors of *People's China* describe it as "a journal dedicated to cementing unity and friendship between the Chinese people and the progressive people of all lands and to the cause of lasting peace and people's democracy."

The journal is attractively printed, carries a four-page pictorial section, and sells at a remarkably reasonable rate. There is news that one London book distributor ordered 500 copies of the first issue to be airmailed to England. In Peking the first issue was immediately sold out and a second printing was necessary.

People's China has a tremendous job to do in interpreting the new China to the peoples of Asia, Europe and America and wherever English is read. International interest in China has never been as great as it is now. And there has never been such a need for factual, sympathetic reporting of China.

The Week's Business

Prices steady both in Shanghai and outports; foreign trade figures released; government institutes price-fixing policy for main export items.

COMMODITY prices during the week from January 26 to February 1 remained relatively stable. The rate of the parity deposit unit went up slightly from JMP4,701 to JMP4,786, an increase of less than two percent.

The financial market was also quiet. In the domestic remittance market large sums are understood to have been remitted from Shanghai, indicating that the financial situation in outports has also turned tight and commodity prices begun to decline. Obviously, Shanghai's financial market and commodity quotations are affected by conditions in outports. In the past, inward remittances at the Shanghai Branch of the People's Bank of China always exceeded the outward ones, but during the week under review it was just the contrary. The domestic remittance rates at the private commercial banks during the week also rose considerably when compared with the previous week.

According to past experience, particularly that gained in November of last year, the rise in commodity prices in Shanghai is often stimulated by bullish developments in outports. Now that commodity prices in outports have begun to decline, there is less possibility for prices in Shanghai to go up, observers have pointed out. The tight money situation in outports is attributed, at least in part, to the purchase of Victory Bonds.

Comparatively speaking, rice prices still advanced by the widest margin among commodities, as shown in the listing below. This firm trend in rice quotations cannot be attributed to shortage of rice when one considers the quantity held by the local authorities. The supply from producing areas has been abundant during the week. On January 26 more than 160,000 piculs of rice arrived at Shanghai from the interior, sufficient for eight days' consumption. What prompted the price fluctuations was still the presence of idle capital and the activities of a number of unscrupulous dealers.

In view of the fact that many local industrial establishments are again confronting difficulties in marketing their products and a shortage of circulating capital, the local state trading organs resumed collection of finished products from them. On the last day of January, the Shanghai Commodity Company signed contracts with 96 local manfacturers, including 46 knitting mills, 25 cotton weaving mills, seven rain-coat factories, six thermos bottle factories, five stationery manufacturers, six tooth brush factories and one match factory. Many local textile mills have been commissioned to spin, weave and dye for the government, while the state-run Shanghai Chemical Raw Materials Company has begun the collection of glacial acetic acid from local chemical plants in financial straits.

Meanwhile, encouraging figures in the field of foreign trade have been released recently by official sources. Since the promulgation of measures by the East China Foreign Trade Control Bureau on December 25, 1949, providing the settlement of foreign exchange in Shanghai for re-exports of Shanghai goods via Tientsin and Tsingtao, a large amount of foreign exchange is reported to have been netted. By January 7, 1950, foreign exchange resulting from re-exports via Tientsin had accumulated to an amount of US$33,492, HK$ 94,126.20 and £29,672 8s 2d and via Tsingtao US$10,527.82 and HK$264,281.35.

According to statistics compiled by the Shanghai Maritime Customs and recently made public, export goods from Shanghai during the period from June 15 to the end of December, 1949 totalled a weight of 121,593 quintals, valued at some US$9,300,000. Tea topped the list of export goods, valued at around US$2,200,000.

Quotations

Following is a listing of representative commodity prices for the past week:

	Jan. 25 JMP	Feb. 1 JMP
Parity Unit	4,701	4,819
US dollar (note)	20,700	22,500
20's yarn	4,220,000	4,600,000
12-lm. cloth	180,000	194,000
Rice, 1st grade	240,000	260,000
Peanut oil	425,000	430,000
Coal briquette	26,000	26,000

LETTERS

(Continued from page 147)

from his imagination but also from reality. In order to have deeper insight, a good writer must make himself close to the people and feel himself a part of his people. For instance, if he wants to describe soldiers, he should join the army and live with soldiers. Only in this way can he really put soldiers and their heroic deeds in his books.

Furthermore, the material which a writer treats must be popular and clear, for he wants to be understood by the people. An awkward and involved style should be avoided. As for the theme, he should choose such material as is a reflection of reality and what is more important, a theme which will show how to improve reality.

In addition to the conditions mentioned above, the writer should be enthusiastic and loyal to the people and devote himself to the reconstruction of the new culture that belongs to the masses. If he does this, it might be said he has well fulfilled his duty and can be considered one of the people for whose benefit he is writing his books.

CHAO TE CHI

Peking
January 27, 1950

SHANGHAI NURSERIES

To The Editor:

The article on "More and Better Nurseries" published in the January 21, 1950 issue of the Review was most interesting. In the past nurseries have been largely a place for the children of the rich. But with the changed situation and the expulsion of feudalism following liberation nursery enterprises have been encouraged to enable more women to participate in productive activities.

Some years ago my wife who was a graduate of an obstetrics school, and I expected our first child a year after marriage. I can tell you there was no pleasure in this for us for we were not rich; on the contrary, it was a real hardship for us as my wife had to leave her productive position. We heartily support the activities of the local authorities in encouraging public and private nurseries.

WONG SZE-LIANG

Shanghai
January, 28, 1950

New Taxation Program for China

A new taxation program, designed to unify the tax administration throughout China, establish a new taxation system, and strengthen tax collections, was promulgated this week by the State Administration Council in Peking.

Fourteen different taxes have tentatively been determined upon. They are: 1) Commodity Tax, 2) Industrial and Commercial Tax (which includes business tax and income tax collected from resident merchants, itinerant merchants and hawkers), 3) Salt Tax, 4) Customs Duties, 5) Income Tax on Salaries and Remunerations, 6) Income Tax on Interest from Deposits, 7) Stamp Tax, 8) Inheritance Tax, 9) Transaction Tax, 10) Slaughter Tax, 11) Real Estate Tax, 12) Land Tax, 13) Special Consumption Tax (including feast tax, amusement tax, cold food tax and hotel tax), and 14) License Tax.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the program is the emphasis it lays on increasing urban taxation. In China's budget for 1950, 41.4 percent of the revenue is to come from the tax on foodstuffs and land—a levy falling principally on the farm population. Miscellaneous taxes and levies—to come mainly from business enterprises—are estimated to bring in 38.9 percent of government receipts.

Since "the burden borne by the peasants is far heavier than that borne by those engaged in industrial and commercial enterprises," the program explains, "the burdens of the urban and rural areas shall be suitably equalized." Accordingly, it directs tax collection agencies to "lay more emphasis on tax collection in the cities."

State-operated enterprises are not exempt from taxation. Neither are cooperatives, or "foreign residents and the enterprises operated by them."

The new tax program was passed following the holding of an All-China Taxation Conference in Peking last November. It is linked with Article 40 of the Common Program passed by the People's Political Consultative Conference in Peking in October, which declared that "the taxation system must be simplified and the burden shall be reasonably distributed."

One provision of the new program calls for the gradual unification of the tax administration throughout the country "within a short period." It points out that, at present, "the tax administration, the kinds of tax, the classification of tax and the tax rates now enforced in different places throughout the country are quite at variance with one another." Such a situation, of course, is not surprising in view of the past years when China was divided, part of her territory under the inept and corrupt rule of the Kuomintang, part forming the liberated areas.

Regulations are to be issued for dealing with cases of violation of tax laws, but the program declares that "abusive punishment or confiscation is prohibited" and urges education of offenders.

Investigation and research is to be encouraged, with special attention paid to "the conditions of industrial and commercial enterprises, the burden of taxation and the economic effect of the taxation policies."

Coinciding with the promulgation of the tax administration program was the issuing of provisional regulations governing the commodity tax.

Tariff rates are highest on luxury items such as cigarettes, wines, cosmetics and "superstitious articles." Cigarettes are subject to a 120 percent tax and "high grades" of smoking tobacco to a 100 percent tax, but "normal grades" to only 30 percent tax.

Foreign and foreign-style wines and liqueurs likewise are taxed 120 percent; Class B wines, such as Shaoshing, Kaoliang, and yellow wine, 100 percent; and "fruit wines, and beer" 60 percent. The tax on other food items ranges from 30 percent on canned good and beverages and 20 percent on sugar to three percent on wheat flour.

Class A cosmetics, including perfumes, essences, powder, nail polish, and lipsticks draw an 80 percent tax. Class B cosmetics, covering such items as cold cream, face cream, vaseline, hair lotion, talcum powder, and shaving cream are taxed 60 percent. Toothpaste and toilet soap, however, drop down to 10 percent.

Superstitious articles, such as joss paper, yellow paper, paper for superstitious rites, banknotes for ghosts, and sticks, are subject to an 80 percent tax.

The tax on fibres includes a 15 percent tax on woolen yarn and thread; 12 percent on cotton and ramie yarn; five percent on silk, ramie and woolen fabrics, with raw silk exempted; five percent on woolen products such as hats and blankets; and three percent on cotton fabrics.

In the field of daily necessities, a 20 percent tax is imposed on matches. Class A leather and furs, including skins of foxes, seals, otards, sables, weasels and other high price items, and products of hog bristles, horse mane and horse hair, are subject to 10 percent tax; Class B leather and furs, five percent. Class A paper, including metallic and decorative paper and cigarette paper, is taxed 15 percent; other paper, five percent.

The tax on industrial products is 10 percent on paints and dyestuffs and five percent on glass and porcelain products, electrical goods, metals, rubber and such miscellaneous items as clocks watches, pens, thermos bottles, gramophones, records, bicycles, cars and accessories.

Class A construction material, such as cement and substitutes, is taxed 15 percent and Class B, brick, tile and lime, five percent.

A straight five percent is levied on agricultural produce, including tea, bamboo and lumber, vegetable oils and eggs.

The tax on minerals ranges from 10 percent on Class C items (gold silver, sulphur, wolfram and fluorite), to five percent on Class B items (gypsum, talcum, alum, natural alkali, arsenic oxide, copper, tin potassium nitrate, antimony, graphite, asbestos, lead, zinc, manganese and mercury), and three percent on Class A items (coal, iron, steel, coke and petroleum).

The tax on imported goods falling under these regulations is to be collected by the Customs authorities in accordance with Customs valuations.

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST

LYSENKO CONTROVERSY

THE SCIENCE OF BIOLOGY TODAY. *By Trofim Lysenko, International Publishers, New York, 1948, 62 pages, $1.25. Reviewed by AHF.*

IT is a pleasure to read that in Moscow when a conference of scientists is held the daily newspapers devote a considerable amount of space to the proceedings and to the theoretical controversies which arise and which seem second nature to the rational minds of physicists, chemists and biologists. In *Pravda* and *Izvestia*, the controversy between the Lysenkoists and the old school, who stand by the "classical" teaching of Morgan, Mendel and Weismann, has always been front page news. For 15 years or so the average Soviet citizen has been kept abreast of the drama of the chromosomes, while we "common folk" beyond the curtain have had to be content with the contentious reviews of critics on some of the acts and scenes. Even these reviews have dwelt too often and too long upon the personal lives of the actors rather than upon the matter of the play.

These critics, the scientific initiates, have for some time been bursting blood vessels over Lysenko's "medieval heresy and obscurantism." Obviously a game of some moment is afoot. But we don't know enough about it.

The atom has been split and the consequences fully realized and explained in the western world. There has been any amount of publicity for the physicists. The names of Oppenheimer and Joliot-Curie have, on occasion, attracted even as much attention in the press as film stars.

What then of the biologists and the most newsworthy of them all, Trofim Lysenko?

* * *

FOR fifteen years Lysenko has been expounding in theory, and presenting in practice, a new attitude to plant breeding. He has said this: "Physics and chemistry have been rid of fortuities . . . we will expel fortuities from biological science."

Biology, as we read in Webster's dictionary, is the science of life of animals and plants. Let us plunge straight into the midst of technicalities. First, genetics is described briefly as the study of heredity and variations, including loosely the physiology of reproduction and the art of breeding. Agronomy, plant breeding, genetics and biology in general are all part and parcel of the total science of living things.

In the book, "The Science of Biology Today," Lysenko has much to say in relation to every branch of the science, and particularly about the "idealist" theories of the "classical" geneticists such as T. H. Morgan.

T. H. Morgan, the father of American genetics, laid down as the basis of his theories a law saying that "the egg produces the individual but the individual has no subsequent influence on the germ plasm of the eggs contained in it, except to nourish and protect them." Weismann, a famous teacher of genetics at the University of Freiburg from 1863 to 1912, also propounded the theory that germ cells —eggs or sperm—are separated and isolated from the cells destined to become body cells.

What is all this about? It is no disgrace to be confused. Geneticists and biologists themselves are at one another's throats over the matter, and there is considerable confusion of terms.

The heart of the matter is the ringing phrase—"the inheritability of acquired characteristics." No, this is not worse confusion, on the contrary, we have immediately revealed the whole theme of the play.

In sexual reproduction, in plants and animals, a seed is planted which grows into a new individual. Within the new individual there is the seed of possible offspring. The classical geneticists claim that nothing that happens to the body of the individual during its life can affect or change the seed buried within.

We know that as the individual grows it is subject to the influence of winds and water, scarcity and plenty, the shocks and arrows of its environment. Salt breezes from the sea may stunt the growth of trees near the shore. Lack of calcium, or proteins, in your diet may affect your body's structure. Very well, in growing up, the body, the soma of plants and animals, is affected by environment. It "acquires characteristics."

But, do the influences of environment seep into the reproductive cells of the individual, into the sperm and egg, and into the minute chromosomes and genes within these cells? Is the nature of the egg-germ plasm changed so that the offspring is inherently different from the original parent before it met environmental influences?

The classical geneticists say no! Lysenko says yes! And further, he says, the biologist working in agronomy can change the characteristics of plants by altering the environment of parent stock. You change and improve the nature of the environment, and, from the better environment, the parent stock draws strength and vitality. Then, behold the offspring inherits the improved acquired characteristics. Lysenko says he has proved it breeding better potatoes.

There is another practical aspect of the drama.

Lysenko insists that the whole body of the parent, every cell, plays a part in determining the characteristics of the offspring. To quote from "The Science of Biology Today:" "It was I. V. Michurin who elaborated vegetable hybridization showing incontravertibly that heredity is a property not only of the chromosomes, but of every living thing, any cell and any particle of the body. For heredity is determined by the specific type of metabolism. You need but change the metabolism in a living body to bring about a change in heredity . . . Thus vegetative hybridization provides unmistakable proof that any particle of a living body, even the plastic substances, and even the juices exchanged between scion (shoot cut for grafting —ed.) and stock (plant into which graft is inserted—ed.) possess hereditary qualities."

Lysenko, following the famous Soviet biologist Michurin, seeks control of plant breeding by hereditary improvement through scientific grafting and crossing of strains. He claims to have proved his case with work on wheat and tomatoes.

He ardently proclaims the philosophy of Michurin: "We must not wait for favors from nature: our task is to wrest them from her."

* * *

WHO is correct? We cannot say, being spectators pure and simple. But it is supremely interesting. Although the controversy is now concerned in practice with plants, theoretically it extends to the breeding of animals, and to the lives of human beings. Can human beings inherit acquired characteristics: are we to wrest some favors from nature? Or is the seed unchangeable or, at least, prone only to fortuitous upsets and mutations?

Hitler, that now dim spectre of the past, prattled on about the purity of blood, the unchanging seed of the superior race. It may seem rather harsh to use this analogy, but the classical geneticists must ask themselves why their theories are related to reactionary social philosophy.

Lysenko took up argument with a Professor S. I. Zhegalov for using the aphorism: "To obtain a new strain we must first possess it." Said Lysenko, we do not agree, "for it is possible to begin to select plants with scarcely perceptible and still feeble useful characters, in order to reinforce and develop these useful characters. . ."

This is the thought of the historical philosophies of humanism, even though the phraseology is that of a special science.

Various biologists, including those who have claimed to be the most progressive such as Professor Muller of the University of California, have developed theories concerning the improvement of the human race through selective breeding. The best seed, the best stock of chromosomes and genes, was to be the parent of the future.

But now we have Lysenko to ponder over. He has put forward an idea which, in its social implications, suggests that we must change man's total condition, his physical and social environment, in order to have better human beings. It may be done some day.

These are the far-reaching implications of the thought of Lysenko. It will outlast the panic over atom bombs. It should be front page news everywhere. In the meantime, the book is available in English.

The Review's English Lesson CXVII

Idiomatic Expressions

THIS week we have selected a few idiomatic expressions from a short story which appeared in last week's issue of the *Review* entitled "Old Mrs. Lei," written by Kao Lang Ting and translated by William Berges.

A pack of plainclothes agents. The noun **pack** as used in this sentence refers to a group of people or animals banded together, usually for evil purposes. Thus, we may say, a pack of wolves attacked the sheep.

I replied offhandedly. The adverb **offhandedly** means casually or without giving careful thought to the reply.

If we all work together singleheartedly. To **work together singleheartedly** means to all strive to accomplish a single aim or objective. For example: to improve China's economic condition we must all work singleheartedly to promote the sale of Victory Bonds.

My old man got a bellyfull. The expression, **bellyfull,** means an excess or a surfeit of something. Thus one may say, the Chinese people got a bellyfull of Kuomintang rule.

Old Lei stuck in his oar. This idiomatic expression refers to a person putting in his opinion during a discussion. Another similar expression commonly used in some English-speaking countries is, he put in his two cents. An **oar** is a flat-bladed pole used for rowing small boats. When one "puts in his oar" he is, by implication, helping to row the boat.

That little squirt. The term **little squirt** usually refers to an impertinent, self-important person who makes himself annoying to others.

Box his ear. To **box** one's ears means to strike a blow on the ear with the flat of the hand.

A company of white soldiers. The word **white** as used here denotes political complexion rather than ethnical, or racial. During the overthrow of Czarism the contending groups were divided into White Guard troops and Red Army forces. Since then the term **white soldiers** has been used to refer to reactionary troops as opposed to the forces of the people's popular movements.

The tiger can never change his spots, so it didn't take many blows to make Lu Ying spill what he knew. The reference to the tiger never changing his spots refers to Lu Ying's obvious lack of strength of character which caused him to weaken after a few blows administered by the white troops. To **spill** what he knew means to give out whatever information he had.

She led me into a cave used for storing alfalfa. Alfalfa is a deep-rooted bush-like plant grown in many parts of the world for feeding livestock.

I felt only an utter, raven blackness. This sentence describes the complete darkness of the hole where Kao Lang Ting hid from the white troops. **Raven blackness** refers to the jet-black color of the raven, a large bird of the crow family.

Old biddy, where did you hide Kao Lang Ting? The term **old biddy** refers to an old lady and likens her to an old hen. Similarly, an old man is sometimes referred to as "old goat" or "old buzzard."

"Ah! I'm so deaf, I can't hear," she answered, pretending to be fuddled. The verb **fuddled** means to be bewildered or stupified. The word **befuddled** conveys the same meaning.

I took her hand and started to clamber up. The verb **clamber** means to climb up with difficulty, usually by using both hands and feet.

When he started off lickety-split along East Mountain. To start off **lickety-split** means to start running as fast as possible. The origin of the term is obscure, but it has come to be widely used in some sections of the United States to describe the act of moving or running at a fast rate of speed.

It would have been all over with him today. The term **all over** as used in this sentence means that had he been captured by the white troops it would have meant the end, death.

You couldn't depend on that spineless Lu Ying. The adjective **spineless** means that Lu Ying possessed no character, no backbone, and was therefore undependable.

* * *

NOW for some questions raised by Mr. H. C. Lin of Shanghai:

Pentagon: The Pentagon, or Pentagon Building, is in Washington, DC, and is so called because of its shape. It houses the top personnel and offices of the US Armed Services. Thus, "the Pentagon" is often used to mean the US Army, or its top command.

Preventive War: preventive war has been defined as an armed offensive undertaken by one power or group of powers against another power or group, on the assumption that the second group is preparing to attack the first and that it is better to nip their plans in the bud by force of arms, in the form of a punitive expedition, which involves armed invasion, wholesale destruction of cities, bombing and strafing of civilians, cows, etc. Put in this way, the fallacy and stupidity of the argument for "preventive war" is manifest. Those in the West who are now shouting loudest for such a folly urge it against the Soviet Union, because they hate and fear successful socialism. That the USSR stands for peace is not taken into account. Nor is the fact that the same voices now screaming for preventive war are the same ones whose tune in the late '30s was, "we can do business with Hitler."

Disinflation and deflation: The meaning is apparently the same; "disinflation" is probably an attempt to disguise and prettify the word "deflation," which has such an ugly sound in the ears of financiers, profiteers, brokers, and their ilk.

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